

World Teacher

– Other World Style Education & Agent –

- Volume 18 -
Angel of Irregularity

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[Bayabusco Translation]

Chapter 130

Fallen Wings

“Sirius-sama. Please have some tea.” (Emilia)

“Aah, thank you.” (Sirius)

Several days after departing from Arbitray, the country of beastkin... we stopped our carriage in an open space a little away from the main road and was taking a break.

With the strength of Hokuto on pulling the carriage, there would be no problem if we kept moving for the whole day. But, since this wasn't a hasty trip, we were taking our time.

In the meantime, while drinking tea that Emilia brewed, I was watching the situation of the mock battle between Hokuto and Reus a bit away from us.

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

“Ops... phew!” (Reus)

Without retaliating, it was a training of defense by solely coping with Hokuto's assault, but somehow, Reus was able to respond.

The forefoot of Hokuto reeled out at a tremendous speed, and Reus handled it well with his greatsword.

“...Woof!” (Hokuto)

“This is... guhaa!?” (Reus)

Apparently, Hokuto increased his strength by one level.

A blow from the tail also began to mix it, and Reus, who finally unable to respond in time, was blown away by a blow on the stomach.

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

“Uh... I-I can still do this!” (Reus)

I wasn't sure about what Hokuto was saying, but perhaps, he asked Rues to get up.

Reus quickly stood up. He resumed the mock battle with Hokuto again, while calming disordered breathing. If he was in such a condition, it wouldn't be long before the results showed.

On the other hand... Reese and Fia faced each other while discussing and doing magic training.

“How about this?” (Reese)

“...It's no good. The Water is still heavy, and it looks like the Wind doesn't like it.” (Fia)

It seemed that those two were trying to do unison magic through Spirit Magic, but it seemed that it didn't go well due to the capriciousness of the Spirits.

However, they didn't easily give up. After all, trial and error were important.

‘Let's watch them without saying anything for a while.’

While everyone was doing their own things in this free time, Emilia and I were confirming the way by spreading the map of the Hypne Continent acquired in Arbitray.

“In this condition... it would be possible to arrive in a nearby town tomorrow.” (Sirius)

“Yes. Through this town, we will go through a main road that greatly detour those mountains... and we will reach Sandor.” (Emilia)

Sandor.

It was the name of a country that was called the Empire and it was our aimed destination.

The country had existed from ancient times, and the historic Sandor was the biggest country in the world.

It was just that... the bigger the country was, the deeper the darkness. I had various hunches especially when we had conspicuous existences such as Fia and Hokuto.

For that reason, we would only go to Sandor after thoroughly gathering information, but I would go there a bit earlier.

The story went back to a few days ago.

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“Aaahhh—!” (Reus)

“Daahh!?” (Keith)

A month after the incident with Belford... while Reus and Keith's scream reverberating throughout the castle from the morning, I visited the Beast King's office alone.

“Excuse me for coming early in the morning.” (Sirius)

“I'm sorry too since I am still in the middle of work. If there is something, please don't hesitate to say anything.” (Eisen)

“I am thinking that it is time for us to leave this place soon.” (Sirius)

“...I see.” (Eisen)

The Beast King stopped his works after I said so. After telling a servant to prepare tea, he turned his sight toward me. He looked regretted but gentle at the same time.

Since he had stopped me several times already, I guessed that he felt it was impossible to do that anymore.

“Everyone will miss you guys.” (Eisen)

“Us too. We're grateful that it is very comfortable here, but we are adventurers, so we can't stay here forever.” (Sirius)

“I also feel unreasonable for that and I'm sorry to have you stay for a long time. When are you going to depart?” (Eisen)

“We are still preparing, so maybe we will go on a trip tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.” (Sirius)

“Understood. I’ll prepare the remuneration immediately. You guys have helped us in many ways... will this be enough?” (Eisen)

I wasn’t in a hurry to travel, but I hadn’t traveled half of the world yet.

However, since we were stopped from leaving because Mea looked so sad, everyone and the Beast King family also agreed to stop.

I was desperately stopped from leaving and a month had passed since then. Finally, I was able to convinced Mea and we could go for a trip again.

Then, the Beast King presented a paper with our achievements and rewards, so when I confirmed it...

“...Isn’t this a bit too much? I’ve also asked few favors, so I am still good even with half of these remunerations.” (Sirius)

“Although I couldn’t publicize it widely, you guys had saved our country, right? Besides, the favors you asked are worthwhile for us.” (Eisen)

By the way, what I was asking was to contact the Gargan Company to supply foods and spices.

Although I wasn’t sure whether it was right to ask a country for that, it seemed that the Beast King family liked it very much when eating dishes that used ingredients which weren’t available in this country. When I told him about the existence of Galgan Company that dealt with such trading, he immediately agreed to make a contact.

It was a long way between continents but I was amazed at how quickly they decided to begin trading. As a result of trial and error since Mea didn’t dislike having meals, it seemed that she had developed a fixation on uncommon dishes.

Because of that, I took advantage on it and asked them for the delivery of letters and replenishment of ingredients. Considering the amount of manastones received as payment and deducted the shipping costs, it wasn’t surprising that the half of the remuneration would be reduced.

“In addition to mending the relationship between my wife and Mea, my daughter has developed mental and physical above all. You don’t need to hold back because that includes my personal remuneration. If you still concern about it... how about this?” (Eisen)

“...Understood. I am gratefully accept it.” (Sirius)

Even if it was decreased by twenty percent, it was still too much of money. However, it was a courtesy to accept it when he said that much.

One of the reason to visit Arbitray was to obtain money, but things happen one after another, and I got more than what I needed. With this, we would last for a while.

In addition to that, when I checked if there was any unusual remuneration, the Beast King asked me while probing the documents on the desk with a bit serious expression.

“Actually, I have something I want to ask. Do you know the country named Sandor?” (Eisen)

“I heard only the rumors. It is certainly said to be the largest country in the world... right?” (Sirius)

“That’s right. It is a country at the northernmost tip of this Hypne Continent. It is situated on the other side of our Arbitray. For your information, an intercontinental meeting will be held there in half a year later.” (Eisen)

An intercontinental meeting... held once in a decade where the leaders and the king of each country gathered and the place was decided in the previous meeting. It was a meeting of the world that discussed about the present situation and the circumstances of each country.

Only large countries could participate in this meeting, so there weren’t many participating countries. The countries that could participate would also be decided in this meeting. It seemed quite an honor if a country could participate since they would be recognized as a big country at the time when they could do so.

“Last time, it was held in a country next to the Holte Continent. There were countries displeased with the location, but it was a meaningful meeting.” (Eisen)

“As adventurers, we regard it as formalities in various ways.” (Sirius)

“Well, you have received a mantle from Elysion and they also will participate in the intercontinental meeting. So, I would like you to tell me about the King of Elysion.” (Eisen)

“Elysion also, is it? Hmm... why do you want to know about such things?” (Sirius)

“Since it is a country that you guys, who have such abilities, lent assistance, the King should be an excellent figure, right? Last time, other countries were irritating and it ended before I could make enough conversation, but this time, I think I would like to progressively make a conversation and create a tie.” (Eisen)

I told the Beast King that I wasn't the subordinate of their country and I got this mantle by luck.

By the way, this was my own thought, but rather than lending a hand to Elysion, I was looking after Reese, the King's daughter. That was why they felt a bit in debt.

Anyhow, it seemed that the Beast King wanted to know about the personality and the preferences of Cardeas, the King of Elysion, in advance.

“Besides, should I say that... I feel that the King has the same kind of smell? I have a feeling that I am somehow attracted.” (Eisen)

“Aah... I can somehow understand.” (Sirius)

Doting parent... did he feel synchronized just because of cute daughter?

With that kind of feeling, I also felt that they would get along, but... they wouldn't fight about whose daughter was cuter, right?

“By the way, I completely have no political mean in this matter. I feel that he is an upright person, and I want to get to know him.” (Eisen)

“...Understood. Cardeas-sama is a strict but an outstanding person as a king, but actually he is a pretty friendly person...” (Sirius)

First off, it was acceptable to tell that the personality which the Beast King thought his daughter was cute was similar to Cardeas.

After living here for a while, I was fully understand the personality of the Beast King.

He wouldn't do foolish acts like taking advantage of people's weaknesses.

"In addition, my companion, Reese, is an excellent treatment magician and she was known and Saintess in Elysion. Since Cardeas-sama's daughter is as cute as that Saintess, If you talk about Reese, he will probably in a good mood." (Sirius)

"Certainly, that girl's treatment and water magic were splendid. I'll keep that in mind." (Eisen)

"...Please don't brag about your daughter and get in fight with him, alright?" (Sirius)

"I understand. As a parent, own daughter is the cutest thing ever." (Eisen)

'...It's going to be fine.'

I had a feeling that they would be in good term with each other, but since they were both doting parents, it couldn't be helped to feel worry.

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After that, I got some information on Sandor from the Beast King. On the evening of that day, I gathered everyone to the room that was allocated to me immediately and shared the information.

"I see. It seems that the whole country is getting busy." (Emilia)

"The security of the country seems to be strict at that time, and if that is true, we should go there after the meeting is over, but... Sirius still wants to go there, right?" (Fia)

"Yeah. It looks like Cardeas-san is coming, so I'm thinking of meeting him for a bit. You also want to see your father, is that right, Reese?" (Sirius)

"Is that... really alright? When we discussed before, we were planning to head there as the last destination, isn't it?" (Reese)

"There is no difference if we go there later anyway. Don't worry just because we are going a bit earlier.

"Thank you. Hehe... I wonder if Tou-sama is doing fine." (Reese)

She didn't look lonely after departing from Elysion, but as I expected, she seemed happy to be able to meet her father.

Beside Reese, who was happily smiling, Reus was unusually in a deep thought.

"Hei, Aniki. It is my intuition, but Lieve-ane is coming too, right?" (Reus)

"...It seems so." (Sirius)

Half a month ago, Reese sent letters from Princess Lifell and Cardeas through Galgan Company.

It seemed that she was writing about the current situation, so since she was studying to be the next Queen, the possibility of Princess Lieve to go there was high.

"I'm not sure if we can meet them, but let's look forward to it." (Sirius)

"Reese's Onee-san and Oto-san, is it? I also have to say hello." (Fia)

"Nee-sama and Tou-sama would be surprised if they know Fia-san..." (Reese)

Since there was no objections in particular, our goals had been decided in this way.

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Then, on the day of departure... we parted with the Beast King family in front of the castle.

Reus and Keith were bumping fists against each other, and while the ladies were talking to Mea and Isabella, I was shaking hands with the Beast King.

"I don't think there is a need to worry, but just be careful on your trip." (Eisen)

"Thank you for your concern. Well then, let's meet again in six months." (Sirius)

I already explained to the Beast King family that we would head to Sandor in line with the intercontinental meeting.

I was offered to go to Sandor with them if I could stay here for a while, but I refused since I wanted to travel around the continent.

After shaking hands with the Beast King, Mea, who had finished talking with the ladies, embraced me with a momentum of hurling assault.

“Onii-san... you know, it was really fun to be together with Onii-san and everyone!” (Mea)

“Aah, I also enjoyed being Mea’s Sensei.” (Sirius)

“The things that Onii-san taught me, I will keep working hard on it. And then... I’ll become stronger.” (Mea)

“Don’t overdo it, alright? And on your own-...” (Sirius)

“Yeah! I have to consult together with everyone... right?” (Mea)

Tears floated in Mea’s eyes as she slowly moved away from me, but the expression when she looked up at me was a smiling face.

Not a crying face, but a smiling face, huh? It seemed that her heart had grown again in the end.

After stroking Mea’s head, I got on the carriage and when we were about to depart...

“Form a line!” (??)

Suddenly, the guards, who worshipped Hokuto, lined up to make a way and they were seeing us off like a parade.

We were overcome with surprise in such a situation, but the Beast King who seemed to be the perpetrator just laughed it off.

“In honor of Hokuto-dono, everyone is willing to cooperate, you know. Well then, don’t hesitate to depart. We will grandly welcome when you guys come back here again.” (Eisen)

“...Rather than welcoming us, won’t you just see us off normally?” (Sirius)

We strongly persuade them that we were merely adventurers. Although they were somehow seeing us off... it made me wonder why I was so tired even before departing.

By the way, although this was in a planning stage, it seemed that there were also residents who cooperated to make a line to the outside of the town, but... I heard that it was canceled.

I think that it was impossible to stop when it involved the whole country, so I was really glad that it didn't happen.

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...Anyhow, we left Arbitray while many things had happened, and we would continue traveling with a plan to arrive in Sandor by half a year.

Reese and Fia returned coincident with the closing of the map as we finished confirming the path. Then, Emilia immediately prepared tea for a number of people.

“How does the unison magic goes?” (Sirius)

“Well, I guess there’s a bit progress... I think?” (Reese)

“I think it is possible to unveil it just a little bit more. By the way, are you done with your part, Sirius?” (Fia)

“Yes, shall we leave when everyone finishes drinking tea? Hokuto, Reus. Around that much-...” (Sirius)

When I turned around while asking them to stop, Hokuto was diverting his eyes away as if he did something bad, and there was a figure of Reus lying spread-eagled.

“Woof...” (Hokuto)

“...He said he made a mistake in adjusting the strength.” (Emilia)

It was an understandable situation even without an interpreter.

Hokuto looked uneasy, but I thought that it was inevitable. Recently, Reus had tried various actions, but it occasionally didn’t go the way he expected.

I was glad with his growth but on the other hand, it became difficult in many ways. Well, it was probably the cry of joy.

“...The break will be extended, huh.” (Sirius)

“It seems so.” (Emilia)

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“I still can’t afford making Hokuto-san to be an enemy...” (Reus)

After a while, Reus woke up as if nothing had happened, so we resumed our journey and we were on the forest covered road.

Once Reus had more or less taken care his own stuff and get on the carriage, but it seemed that he was tempted to move his body already. Since he had piled up a lot of experience, the recovery was quick.

“Hei, Aniki. Since I’m already fine, can I run?” (Reus)

“That’s not good. Please have a rest for a while. Try to remember the reason why you lost when you have spare time. Image training is also important.” (Sirius)

“Yeah... the reason for losing, is it? Since Hokuto-san’s movement is too fast, I can’t make it in time to think...” (Reus)

“In my opinion, even if Hokuto’s attack is visible, I think that it is amazing if you can read beforehand even a bit.” (Fia)

“After fighting him many times over, I think I can understand what Fia-ane meant. By the way, I totally can’t predict Aniki’s *swaying sfx* movement, and it is really difficult to avoid since Hokuto-san’s attack comes like *swift sfx*.” (Reus)

“...I don’t really get it.” (Fia)

“I think only Reus can understand that.” (Emilia)

Perhaps, it was like Lior-jiisan.

It was good to have a steady growth, but he wasn’t good at teaching people. Even if he could only explain by such an onomatopoeia, it couldn’t be understood except by the person himself who could fully understand it.

While watching such Reus with a bit of amazement, the movement of the carriage suddenly stopped. Hokuto moved his nose and began wary of the surroundings.

“...Woof!” (Hokuto)

“What’s wrong, Hokuto? Is it an enemy attack?” (Sirius)

“Sirius-sama. Something is approaching here.” (Emilia)

As soon as I invoked [Search], it seemed that there was a carriage that was approaching from our direction of travel.

This was a main road, so it wasn’t uncommon for adventurers and merchants to use it, but the speed of the carriage was clearly unusual.

As if they were running away from something-...

“...Hokuto. Move a bit away from the main road and give way. Then, we will-...” (Sirius)

“Battle preparation is perfect.” (Emilia)

“Me too!” (Reus)

“I am fine too.” (Reese)

“The spirits also gave a warning. It looks like a substantial number.” (Fia)

The Spirits also gave a hint, and it seemed that the carriage was chased by monsters.

Although there was enough space that two carriages to get pass each other, but since there was a possibility that ours could be hit in that situation, we moved it to a location slightly away.

Then, when we waited for a while after completing battle preparation, a carriage that was pulled by a horse running at full speed, and I noticed many monsters approaching from behind with naked eyes.

“They seem to be chased after all.” (Sirius)

“It looks like they are somehow escaping, but the horse stamina can’t be maintained

if it runs as it is. It is already an unpleasant situation." (Emilia)

Looking at the back of the carriage, not only dozens of Murky Wolf, a black wolf-shaped monster whose size was half of Hokuto, there were dozens of huge bee monsters on their heads.

"Magical Bees are here too, huh? It is not a monster that will attack unless people attack its nest first... they got hit badly, is it?" (Sirius) (recehck)

"That's because the bees usually make nests deep inside the forest. No matter how I think about it, I feel like the bee was the one attacked first." (Fia)

The honey that could be taken from that monsters' nests was nutritious and tasty, but people had to fight a large number of magical bees that protect the nest in order to secure it.

Furthermore, the size of the bee was the size of arm. This wasn't something people could handle especially when there were nearly a hundred of them. It was certainly a number of mayhem, far more annoying than the wolf.

People wouldn't be able to aim the nest without having a careful preparation or appropriate abilities. I guessed that this was also an unexpected accident since they were not only chased by bees, but also wolves.

"We don't really have obligation to help them, but we won't be able to escape from the monsters too. Shall we provide backup with magic?" (Sirius)

"Understood." (Emilia)

"Please leave it to me." (Fia)

Judging from the appearance, we managed to prevent monsters from attaching to the carriage by shooting arrows from the back of the carriage and throwing something suitable, but it didn't end since numbers of them still approaching.

We also aimed at the monsters by releasing magic from a distance. Since we had to be careful not to hit the carriage, we couldn't actively aimed and the result of our effort was lacking.

At last, when the carriage that the bees were flocking tried to get through us, a man

who was holding the reins on the coachman seat realized our existence and shouted at us.

“You guys! Run away fast!” (??)

“What are you doing!? These people are–...” (??)

However, due to the screaming of a man who was watching from inside of the carriage, it went passed us without dropping its full speed.

And...

“...What an admirable group, huh.” (Sirius)

“Yes, they are heartless bunch.” (Emilia)

The vast majority of the monster who had been chasing the carriage was now attacking us.

I had expected that it would be impossible to stop the carriage in that situation, but... I didn't expect that nearly 80% of the monster came at us.

Although the monsters were wholeheartedly chasing the carriage, it was weird to be chased by that number.

“...What is this smell?” (Sirius)

“It is that, Aniki. That man was dropping it from the carriage a while ago.” (Reus)

Although those bunch had already disappeared, their carriage had dropped a big iron box when they passed in front of us.

The strong-looking iron box had the size that I could barely get in. I couldn't see the contents well because only a few gaps were seen, but it had a strong smell.

“Uh... what is this? Rather than strangely stung my nose, I don't want to sniff it so much.” (Reus)

“It looks like some kind of fruits that are used to attract monsters. But, it is not sane to scatter such a strong smell.” (Emilia)

“Yeah. It doesn’t seem that the box… fell by coincidence.” (Sirius)

“Apparently, we are used as a decoy.” (Fia)

Many monsters were already clustering on the fallen iron box, but there were also many monsters aiming at us.

The act of deliberately pushing down monsters on us was an offend even if there was no way to deal with it. If the pressed side appealed to the guild with evidence, they would have to pay the penalty.

I didn’t see much, but I firmly remembered that guy’s face. He was probably a merchant by looking at his getup. I understood that they were desperately trying to survive, but I would have to report this in the next town unless they came to apologize.

“Gurururu...” (Hokuto)

“...It’s no good, huh. There is no choice but to do it.” (Sirius)

Whether Hokuto was agitated because of Fia’s word, I couldn’t see that those monsters wanting to run away even with Hokuto’s intimidation.

When we counted, there were nearly sixty wolves and bees in total, but we probably would have no problem.

“Reus and Hokuto, take on those wolves. We will go for the bees-...” (Sirius)

As the noises of the wolves’ howling and the bees’ buzzing were loud, I was judging on dividing works and planning on complete annihilation, but at that time… I noticed something inside the fallen iron box.

“...Strategy change! Everyone, follow me while repelling monsters!” (Sirius)

Even with the sudden change, the disciples quickly decided and followed me.

Then, while defeating monsters, we approached the fallen iron in one group from the carriage.

“Sirius-sama, what is that box?” (Emilia)

“It moved unnaturally, and I felt an indistinct scream. At any rate, clear out the swarming monsters, and form a circle around the box!” (Sirius)

“Got it, Aniki!” (Reus)

“Leave the box’s close perimeter to me! Oh Water, please!” (Reese)

“I will also do that!” (Emilia)

“Then, leave the bees to me! Everyone... please do it!” (Fia)

Emilia and Reese sent the wolves that were biting the iron box away with magic, while Fia brought forth a big tornado and swept out the bees that were flying around.

Meanwhile, Hokuto and Reus leaped forward. Simultaneously, I took hold of the box while repelling the bees and wolves that were trying to get close again.

“Oi, are you alright? Answer me!” (Sirius)

“...Hii!? Auu...” (??)

Although I was in front of the box, I could clearly hear a faint shriek in the middle of growling and buzzing noises.

It seemed to be a girl from the voice heard, but I really couldn’t see the inside even from the small openings. Although the voice was hoarse, she was still desperately screaming, so I understand that she was in considerably unfavorable situation, physically and mentally.

I tried examining the iron box while shooting the approaching bees with [Magnum], but there seemed to be a sturdy lock attached on the small opening of the box.

Of course, there was no way for that key to fall conveniently.

“Can you destroy it? I’ll leave this to you, Emilia.” (Sirius)

“Leave it to me!” (Emilia)

Emilia unleashed a small but sharp blade of wind, and she accurately cut the shackle of the lock.

While admiring her splendid skill, I looked inside as I removed the lock, and the inside were filled by the crushed fruits that could attract monsters and there was a figure of a girl watching me with a scared expression.

“A... uu...” (??)

“Are you alright? I came to save you, so come here.” (Sirius)

I extended my hand as gently as possible while saying that, but the girl didn't move and she leaned toward end of the box. When I looked closely, there was a slave collar attached around the neck of the girl, so it wasn't amusing for her to be afraid of people.

I should pass the role to Reese or Fia, and let them calmed the first...

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

“Aniki! Hokuto-san said the monsters in the distance are getting closer!” (Reus)

Since we were beginning to collect surrounding monsters by smell, it seemed that there was no room to relax.

Moreover, the girl's body was also subjected to the fluid that attracted the monsters. Even if we took her away, we would keep gathering monster.

‘It is inevitable. I guess I have to force her a bit.’

“Reese. Please wash her.” (Sirius)

“Yes! Oh, Water... [Aqua Ring].” (Reese)

By observing the circumstances, Reese seemed to understand what I wanted her to do.

Incidentally, after confirming that Reese had produced a mass of water to cleanse her body, I grabbed the girl's arm and forcefully pulled her out.

“Nooo!?” (??)

“I'm sorry. Just be patient... for a bit.” (Sirius)

Be that as it may... her arm was thin.

I understood well that she didn't get enough to eat.

That weakened body reminded me the siblings in the past, but I threw the girl into the mass of water as I hardened my heart.

It was a bit harsh to do that suddenly, but with this, the smell would be washed away.

“We will be finishing soon—... eh? This girl is...” (Fia)

“Sirius-sama. The surrounding monsters have all been... this is...?” (Emilia)

We were going to leave this place later before the monsters gathered, but we kept looking at the girl who was struggling within the water, and gathered around her.

I didn't notice this since it was dim within the box, but I could see it now as the whole body of the girl was under the sunlight.

On the back of the thin girl...

“Is this girl... a winged people?” (Sirius)

White wings were growing on her back, as it was a reminiscent of an angel.

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Extra/Bonus 1

Keith's Peace of Mind.

After Sirius and others left, Keith's heart wasn't calm, but there was only one thing he felt relief.

“With this, there will be no one who can teach Mother professional wrestling.” (Keith)

It didn't change the fact that he could already apply the technique, but he was no longer afraid by the dread of a technique with unknown movement.

He headed toward the battleground in high spirits since the technique couldn't be applied even today, but Isabella and Mary were there before him and they were studying some kind of book very hard.

When he looked at the title of the book... [Art of Sirius: Encyclopedia of Professional Wrestling Techniques] was written.

“Okaa-san. I would like to do this Cross Armbar.” (Mea)

“I'm good with... Northern Lights Bomb...” (Isabella)

The future of Keith's piece of mind was still far away...

“Onii-chan. I want to do this armlock technique, the Cross Armbar. It only feels like hugging Onii-chan's arm...” (Mea)

“I'll be glad to help you!” (Keith)

Aah... she was nearby.

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Extra/Bonus 2

※Rejected Material 1

In a scene where a carriage went pass Sirius.

As soon as I invoked [Search], it seemed that there was a carriage that was approaching from our direction of travel.

This was a main road, so it wasn't uncommon for adventurers and merchants to use it, but... since the running speed of the carriage was at a reasonable speed, the situation was strange.

As if they were running away from something, and after a while...

“He-helpppp—!?” (??)

“Hahaha! You should just obediently be my source of money!” (Lior)

A group of bandits who had their horses running at full speed appeared and there was an old man, who was swinging his greatsword in high spirit, was chasing after them.

“Hei, Aniki. That is-...” (Reus)

“Shhh! Don’t look at them. Everyone also, don’t look at their eyes!” (Sirius)

※Rejected Material 2

During the departure in Arbitray...

After stroking Mea’s head, I got on the carriage and when we were about to depart...

“Onii-san! I’ll be a good girl when I grow up! Then... I will your... fourth bride-...” (Mea)

“Wa-wait a sec, Mary! Don’t speak more than that!” (Eisen)

“What do you mean!? Even if you are my Sensei, I will not forgive you if you touch my sister!” (Keith)

“Run, Hokuto!” (Sirius)

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

I thought that there were many times when Mea was talking with the ladies, but... was it about that?

Judging from appearances, Emilia was smiling as usual, and both Reese and Fia didn’t feel bad, maybe because they could have a cute sister.

‘This is... nah, there is no need to think too much.’

By the way, as a side story, Keith was chasing us until outside of the town.

Chapter 131

Karen

Winged people.

As the name suggested, it was a human race whose wings grew on the back.

According to rumor, it was said that they were taking care of themselves by making a settlement in the mountains of the Hypne Continent. However, the overall population was small. On top of that, the greatest characteristic was their beautiful whitish wings. Even though they weren't as strong as the Elves, they were considered as a rare tribe.

After helping the girl of the winged people, we retreated from the place where the fruits that could attract monsters lying there, before the next wave of monsters gathered.

The smell was stuck on the girl, but since the smell gone because of Reese' magic, we didn't get attacked by monsters after that.

And since the sun was beginning to set when we moved to the place where there was no smell, we began preparing for the camp.

While making a stomach-friendly soup which was we already got used to it, I talked to the ladies who were watching the girl who lied down in the carriage.

“How's the girl?” (Sirius)

“She is still sleeping.” (Emilia)

“There are no major injuries, and I think that she is alright because the breathing is calm.” (Reese)

It had been around several hours since we met her, but to tell the truth, we didn't know anything about the girl yet.

At that time, the girl was thrown into the mass of water created by Reese, and when I

thought that she would only struggle for a while, she suddenly lost consciousness.

The time she was in the water was merely a few seconds, so basically, Reese wasn't trying to drown her.

Since it was quite comfortable to be wrapped in that magical water, I guessed that Reese probably didn't think much, but let say that I could sense her feeling of guilt.

Thereupon, the girl was asleep. When I checked her up with [Scan] earlier, no fatal illness could be found and she was weakened due to malnutrition. I wasn't sure whether it was due to the rarity value, but I considered that it was very fortunate that there were only few traces of being beaten.

I already removed the slavery collar, and she would naturally wake up if we let her sleep.

“Even so, this girl seems to be different from the winged person that I know.” (Sirius)

“Well. The wings are different from the winged person I heard.” (Emilia)

They were the only tribe with wings. Although they couldn't fly like a bird, they could soar in the sky.

I heard that the wings were quite large if they spread it from the usual folded wings condition, but one of the girl's wings was... well, the right wing was obviously smaller compared to the left wing.

That was probably because she was still a child, but it was strange that the balance was bad.

Was it because of genetic or something? For the time being, should I call her... an irregular angel?

Besides, since I hadn't seen any other winged people, there was a possibility that this kind of condition was a normal thing among the winged people.

Or maybe the girl was a rare existence, but there were many rare existences in the house, so I was more concerned about the girl's condition rather than the wings.

“But, rather than the wings, this girl is more problematic. Goodness... I can't forgive

those who did things this far to such a young child." (Fia)

"Yes. It's cruel for not letting her eat until she lost weight until that much." (Reese)

"...For children who become slaves, they are given a minimum amount of meal to deprive the desire to go against the owner. She probably didn't want to get beaten, but then, it became harsh since she became hungry..." (Emilia)

The girl's blond hair that reached the shoulders was dull and unkempt, and she lost considerable amount of weight.

Looking at the appearance of such a girl, Emilia, who was a former slave, remembered the bitter memories. I gently stroked Emilia's head since she looked sad when looking at that girl.

"Well, when she wakes up, let's have her eat right away. Look, if you show such a face, the girl would be anxious when she wakes up, right? Did Noel show that kind of face at that time?" (Sirius)

"...You're right. Onee-chan was kind." (Emilia)

Noel was slightly nervous at that time, but she gently talked and calmed the siblings down.

After that, Emilia settled down and resumed cooking the soup. In the meantime, Reus and Hokuto, whom I asked to procure food ingredients, returned.

"Woof!" (Hokuto)

"Welcome back. It seems like there will be a considerable amount of meals, isn't it?" (Sirius)

"Woof..." (Hokuto)

Since Hokuto put down the monsters that had its blood fully drained and put his head in front of me, I stroked him plenty.

His appearance became splendid compared to the previous life, but it didn't change the fact that he wanted to get pampered by stroking when he showed me the prey hunted by him.

“Welcome back, Reus. How’s the result?” (Reus)

“It was bigger than I thought, but it was easy because the number had been decreasing much.” (Reus)

Subsequently, when he unsealed the opening of the large bag Reus carried as he put it down, a great sweet scent permeating... and there was magical beehive inside it.

Since we fought and reduced the number of bees earlier, I asked Reus to secure the nest that was slightly thin. By the way, if the bee was big, the nest would also be big. Hence, the beehive that Reus brought was only a part of the nest.

It was a nest full of honey and bee larvae, and since it was difficult to eat as it was, I asked Reus to sort it out.

“Leave it to me, Aniki. More importantly... what happened to that girl?” (Reus)

“She’s still asleep. It might be good to let her eat the honey when she wakes up.” (Sirius)

“Yeah! Hehe... it’s been a while for Aniki to make that.” (Reus)

“Aah, I will also help you with that.” (Reese)

By the way, it was a French Toast with plenty of honey.

Reese, who was drawn to the honey, also came to help. The honey extracted from the beehive was packed in a prepared contained and the bee larvae were also sorted out.

The grown magical bee was big, but as expected, the bee larva was just as big as my fingertip. The appearance was a bit... well, on top of being highly nutritious similar to the honey, it was also good for the beauty. So, the ladies would be delighted as well.

Since the honey would be used for tomorrow’s breakfast and sweets, I guessed I should use the bee larvae for dinner.

“Well then, I will help with the soup.” (Emilia)

“Don’t you have to look at that girl?” (Sirius)

“Well, yes, but it is more meaningful to make the soup delicious than just waiting.”
(Emilia)

“I see. I leave it to you then. I will prepare the dinner.” (Sirius)

“You can leave the girl to me.” (Fia)

In this way, it became the usual sharing work. I was thinking about the dinner menu with the meat and bee larvae handed over.

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Since then, the girl still didn’t wake up after dinner, so we gathered around the bonfire and talked about the future plan.

“Is Sirius-sama going to take care of the girl?” (Emilia)

“If possible, I’m thinking of returning her to the parents. Whatever it is, I want to listen to her story first.” (Sirius)

There wasn’t really an obligation to do this, but I judged that this encounter was worth treasuring. I couldn’t do that now, but if I protect the girl and brought her under the parent, I might be able to get acquainted with winged people.

As I explained so, the siblings and Reese were happily nodding, but only Fia had a bitter smile as if it couldn’t be helped.

“Although we still don’t know anything, you act as usual.” (Fia)

“This is a trip to broaden the view. We can make a lot of friends, so there is no loss, correct?” (Sirius)

“Yes, I agree with it. It is because you are such a person, I can continue traveling happily like this.” (Fia)

At the time when I first met Fia, there were many reasons to help her who was being hunted by bad people, but the main reason was to get acquainted.

In those days, I thought that we would just be friends, but when I realized it, it felt unusual to be traveling together now as pair of lovers.

As I recalled the old days while drinking Emilia's brewed tea, Hokuto, who lied beside me, made a small bark.

“...Woof.” (Hokuto)

“Aniki, that girl is waking up.” (Reus)

“Got it. Everyone, don't try to agitate her.” (Sirius)

Since I judged that she would be surprised if she saw unknown people when she woke up, we were quietly waiting for her who was sleeping in the carriage to get up without moving from the place.

And then, the girl slowly raised her upper body and looked around with sleepy eyes.

“...Here... where?” (???)

By the time she went out from the carriage while tilting her neck, she opened her eyes wide when noticed our presences.

Although it was a bit imprudent, I thought that the appearance of the girl's folded wings spread in one go because of being surprised was a bit adorable, just like when the siblings were surprised, their tails stood up together with the sound of 'Ping'.

After that, Emilia was talking gently like Noel in the past to the wary girl who was spreading her irregular wings.

“Is it alright for you to get up already?” (Emilia)

“...Who... are you, Onee-chan?” (???)

Whether the caution was a bit loosened, the girl tilted her cute neck while slowly folding her wings.

Since it was dangerous if she walked around the campground arbitrarily, I planned to capture the girl if she ran away, but it seemed that I didn't have to worry about it.

“It's cold if you stay there, you know? Why don't you warm up together with us around the bonfire here?” (Emilia)

“There is a warm soup if you are hungry.” (Reese)

“Auuu...” (??)

Whether the appearance of the confused girls tickled the maternal instinct, Emilia and Reese were looking at her with warm eyes as if they wanted to embrace her.

After the girl slowly looked at each of us...

“...Oh my, I wonder if you are alright with me?” (Fia)

“...Yeah.” (??)

““No way!?”” (Emilia/Reese)

“Hiii!?” (??)

She approached Fia who was quietly watching the circumstances.

Since the girl didn't try to get away from Fia even though she was surprised by the two who were shocked, I would just leave her to Fia.

“Well, then. We'll introduce ourselves first. My name is Fia. Can you also tell me your name?” (Fia)

“...Karen.” (Karen)

“I see, you are Karen. That's a cute name, isn't it?” (Fia)

Whether she was happy when her name was praised, the girl... Karen was blushing while her wings were trembling.

“Next is us. I am Emilia.” (Emilia)

“I am Reese. Nice to meet you, Karen- chan.” (Reese)

“...” (Karen)

Subsequently, when Emilia and Reese introduced themselves, Karen looked frightened and hid behind Fia's back.

With that clear rejection, they were dropping their shoulders while sighing.

“It’s alright, Karen. The people here are not going to do anything bad to you.” (Fia)

“But... I am scared of the angry people, and she is similar to the Wolf-san’s tail and ears...” (Karen)

“Scary people... you mean...” (Reese)

“Tail and ears...” (Emilia)

The people who hit Karen were probably scary people and that ears and tail reminded her to the wolves that attacked earlier.

Telling her that we were different from such people wouldn’t easily change what that child was thinking. We probably should compromise until she understood that we weren’t dangerous people, but why was she fine with Fia?

“Oh my, I wonder if I don’t look like a scary person.” (Fia)

“...I can smell forest from Onee-chan.” (Karen)

Speaking of the Elves, it was a forest kind, huh. So, the winged people who had wings like birds were unconsciously attracted?

Well, anyhow, if there was someone whom she could tolerate even a little, I didn’t have to worry about her running away then.

“Next is me. I am Reus-...” (Reus)

“Hiii!?” (Karen)

“Why!? I said nothing but my name only...” (Reus)

“That’s because you suddenly talk. And since you are big, you have to be more careful!” (Emilia)

“Aniki, tell me! How can I become smaller?” (Reus)

“Don’t ask something unreasonable.” (Sirius)

Except for Hokuto, Reus height was the tallest among us. Hence, from a child's perspective, there would be an intimidating feeling.

However, rather than getting angry at Emilia, he clung at me and that made Karen looked at Reus strangely.

"Come, no matter how you look at them, these Onii-san and Onee-san are delicate people. That's why you don't have to be scared." (Fia)

"...Yeah." (Karen)

Unfortunately, Karen didn't seem convinced.

It was too bad for Reus, but it was good when Karen's cautions was lessened when she looked at the delicate part... well, maybe.

"And the big wolf over there is Hokuto. Although he might look scary, he will not attack Karen, so you don't have to worry." (Fia)

"Woof..." (Hokuto)

"...Yes." (Karen)

"Lastly, the Onii-san over there is Sirius. He was the first person who noticed you." (Fia)

"Well, even if it wasn't me, Hokuto and everyone else would have noticed her immediately. Leaving that matter aside, as introduced by Fia, my name is Sirius." (Sirius)

"...Sirius?" (Karen)

Karen wasn't terribly frightened even when she saw Hokuto, and that might be because he didn't bark while lying down. In my case, I felt like she was wary at me similar to Emilia.

Now, that the self introduction was over, we probably should let Karen ate something first.

When I turned my line of sight, Emilia quietly nodded. After preparing a plate and

poured soup in it, she handed it over to Fia.

“Say, Karen. This soup is prepared by that Onii-san and Onee-san, would you like to eat it? It’s warm and delicious.” (Fia)

“Soup?” (Karen)

“Yes. You will understand if you smell it.” (Fia)

When Fia brought a spoon that scooped the soup to Karen’s nose, she opened her mouth and ate it. I guessed that won over her hungry stomach.

Perhaps, Emilia and Reese wanted to do it but I decided not to look at their frustrated expression.

“...It’s delicious.” (Karen)

“Can you eat it by yourself?” (Fia)

“Yes... I can.” (Karen)

And then, Karen received a plate from Emilia, and she continuously ate the soup while struggling with the heat.

Although I felt happy when Karen said that the soup was delicious, she only loosened her mouth slightly.

She hadn’t met us for long time, so it couldn’t be helped when she had become a slave, but I wanted her to start smiling soon.

After Karen finished eating the soup and settled down, Fia asked Karen again.

“How old are you, Karen?” (Fia)

“...Five years old.” (Karen)

“Well then, do you know where is your Okaa-san and Otou-san?” (Fia)

“...I don’t want to say.” (Karen)

"Yeah, I will not force you if you don't want to say it. But you know, since we want to take Karen to your parents, please let me know the place of your house." (Fia)

"But, if I say it, those scary people will attack it..." (Karen)

Perhaps, those scary people were the ones who put the slavery collar on her.

It wasn't my imagination that I could feel the anger from the siblings and Reese due to the appearance of Karen being terrified at us.

Fia also seemed to be angry, but she gently smiled without giving a hint.

"It's alright. Onee-chans will not hit you, so can you tell me please?" (Fia)

"...I don't know." (Karen)

"...Let alone your home, you mean you don't know where we are?" (Fia)

"Yes. I fell into a river when I was walking with Okaa-san, and when I woke up, the scary people put something strange on my neck..." (Karen)

"I see... You had it hard." (Fia)

The merchants probably tried to ask Karen in order to catch other winged people, but I guessed that they got angry because she answered that she didn't know anything.

Fia tried to stroke Karen's head since she was about to cry, but she got frightened when Fia brought her hand closer. It seemed that Fia wasn't able to touch her easily. It seemed more time needed before they could stroke her.

Then, Karen was tilting her neck while touching her throat. She might notice now the collar had gone.

"Why? Even though I tried to pull it many times, I still couldn't take it off..." (Karen)

"It's because that Onii-chan has incredible power. With this, Karen is already free now." (Fia)

"...Ooh." (Karen)

After that, Fia patiently continued the conversation. She told her about us and repeatedly asked questions about Karen.

It was within the range that Karen could understand.

She lived with her parents in a village where winged people lived. Like what she had explained earlier, she fell into the river and was washed away. She was picked up by merchants and put on a slavery collar.

After that, she was confined in an iron box that she almost couldn't see anything outside. The box, then, violently shook in the middle of being carried somewhere, and she was fearing the appearance of wolves by the monsters' bark heard from the box' opening but we were the ones showed up at that time.

The good thing was, only several days had passed after Karen was caught and became a slave.

She was locked up in that iron box with minimal amount of food. Since physical violence was at the very minimum, she didn't look like having mental disorder so far.

To begin with, she might be having a stranger anxiety, but now the situation had changed way too much, she became too sensitive to the surroundings.

She was greatly relaxed thanks to Fia, and if we kept in touch and took care of her, this situation was likely to be managed somehow.

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When I realized, she was sleeping while clinging to Fia. She might be tired from the conversation and starvation.

While everyone was smiling with the natural state of sleeping, we confirmed our future plan in low voice.

“In the end, I still don't understand well about the winged people. What are you going to do from now, Aniki?” (Reus)

“I will gather information after reaching the nearby town tomorrow. Winged people is a rare tribe, so if I ask the guild, I may find some clues about them.” (Sirius)

Although it wasn't always possible to ask the residence, if I brought Karen along and asked, there might be a possibility of recalling something.

There was also another way to find out and that was to ask that merchant, but that guy didn't only make Karen as a slave, but he was also diverting the monsters to us. I didn't want to take the trouble to go back the way we came, so I should consider that as a last resort.

There were also some information, but I had to buy Karen's clothes when we get to the town.

When we rescued Karen, she was wearing a piece of cloth that could cover the slave collar and her body, and now she was forced to wear Emilia spare shirt with holed on the back for her wings

“Shall we take a day off in preparation for tomorrow?” (Sirius)

“Well. For the night watch order of tonight, I will be the first...” (Fia)

“No, Fia doesn't have to do it today. Just stay with Karen. She would probably anxious if Fia is not nearby when she suddenly wakes up in the middle of the night.” (Sirius)

“Yes, you can leave it to us.” (Reus)

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

“If it is so, I will accept that offer. Hehe... she is a bit big, but I wonder if this how it feels when having a child?” (Fia)

Fia, who gently held her in arms, went back to the carriage to sleep together.

She usually behave like and older sister, but when I looked at her like this, I could see the side of a mother. ‘Am I realizing a glimpse of Fia's new charm?’

Will it be alright if I also accompany them...” (Reese)

“I want to make Karen-chan sleep in between of me and Sirius-sama. Then, it feels like a parent and child... hehehe.” (Emilia)

While calming the two ladies who were envious, we decided the order of night watch.

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The next day... I was preparing for everyone's breakfast as I was the last person on the night watch order.

They would naturally wake up because of the smell if I cook, so when I was preparing while not making noise as much as I could, I suddenly felt eyes from my back.

“...” (Karen)

“...Karen?” (Sirius)

When I turned around, there was a figure of Karen showing her face out of the carriage and looking at me.

‘Is she a curious child?’

She hid herself as soon as our eyes met, but since she showed her face again after a while, I tried to speak slowly, not to make her anxious.

“Are you hungry? I'm preparing dishes now, so please wait for it.” (Sirius)

“!?” (Karen)

However, Karen only spread her wings as if she was on alert, and she didn't move from there.

She should be hungry because she was only eating soup last night, but... this situation seemed quite difficult.

After that, I called Emilia and Reese who had woken up, but Karen never got closer to us until Fia woke up.

“It's difficult, isn't it? She seems to be hungry, so I thought that she would come closer if we offer her meat, but...” (Emilia)

“*Nomnom*... right. It's not good to hold back.” (Rees)

“*Nomnom*... he's right. Dried meat is really delicious.” (Reese)

“The one who will be tempted are these two. (Emilia)

Even with that skit of those three, Karen still didn’t try to separate from Fia.

The appearance of Karen following Fia when she washed her face, and moved to the other side of the carriage to change clothes was completely like how ducklings followed its parents around that I’d seen in the previous life.

And now, while yawning, she was modestly sitting next to Fia who sat on a rock nearby.

By the way, Hokuto was usually lying next to me, but he was doing that a bit away from us since he didn’t want to scare Karen.

While thinking about brushing him later, I finished preparing the breakfast.

“Today is the French Toast as requested. Please bring plates.” (Sirius)

“““Yes.””” (Emilia/Reese/Reus)

“Fureuchi... what’s that?” (Karen)

“It’s baked sweet bread, it’s like sweets.” (Fia)

“Bread... I don’t like it much because it is hard.” (Karen)

“Ooh, you were given that kind of bread. But, it’s alright, this is soft and delicious bread.” (Fia)

I placed the baked bread one after another on everyone’s plate, and after that, we were going to eat it with the honey we got yesterday.

And then, it became a breakfast where everyone handed over the honey, but Karen was puzzled holding the dish handed from Fia. According to Emilia, slave meals were basically the last. In that case, she might have been thinking that it was no good to eat without permission.

“Look, this is so soft. You can munch as it is... what’s wrong?” (Fia)

“I... is it alright for me to eat this?” (Karen)

“Yes, of course. Sirius made it because he wants Karen to eat it.” (Fia)

“Yeah. If you want more, just say it, alright.” (Sirius)

After Karen confirmed that I plainly nodded, she timidly put the French Toast in her mouth... and she immediately ate again.

Karen finished eating it in no time, but she kept her eyes on the plate as if she didn't have enough. Although she was still recuperating, it seemed that I cut her portions a bit too small.

“Say, was it delicious?” (Fia)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

“If you want to eat more, why don't you try saying that you want it?” (Fia)

“...O-onii-chan. I would like... to have more.” (Karen)

“It's alright. Come here.” (Sirius)

Even though Karen was frightened, she came in front of me, but she ran away and hid behind Fia after I put more bread on her plate.

It seemed that she would take some time to get used to us.

‘I wonder how long it will take for her to ask for more helpings without reservation like Reese and the siblings.’

“Another please.” (Reese)

“Me too, Aniki!” (Reus)

The honey is delicious. Sirius-sama, could I have some more, please?” (Emilia)

‘Aah... it may be a bit of problem to be assertive that much.’

Well, it was the right time to have good appetite.

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This time, the usual ‘Presenting Hokuto’ changes to...

‘SATW Hokuto’.

※ Super Animal Therapy Wolf...

SATW Hokuto

There is what people call animal therapy.

There are various effects, and there was also the effect of healing companion’s spirit by touching animals.

This time... the Master picked up a girl who had gone through hard times and had her heart broken, so Hokuto, who was also a dog in the previous life, was up for the animal therapy.

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

“Hiii!?” (Karen)

Although Hokuto attempted with full spirit, the girl was scared of him and hid behind tree.

It might be inevitable due to the situation of the girl, but from Hokuto’s point of view, it would be meaningless unless he had her touched him.

His heart was slightly hurt, but he lie down on the spot so as not to frightened the girl and he had decided to wait for the girl to become less cautious.

“...” (Karen)

“...” (Hokuto)

The girl was watching Hokuto, but there was no sign of approaching.

If Hokuto was in the state of the dog in the previous life, he could simple-mindedly approach her, but the current him could think like people.

Then, Hokuto thought...

“Woof...” (Hokuto)

He lie down on the spot and showed his belly, showing that he wasn’t an enemy.

Originally, this wasn’t an act he wanted to do other than to the Master, but now, mending the girl’s heart was the priority.

‘How about this?’

If the girl saw him lying down for a while, she would...

“Karen. Emilia made a snack for you to eat.” (Fia)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

Then, the girl had already gone away.

And Hokuto who was left behind...

“Woof...” (Hokuto)

“There, there. You did your best.” (Sirius)

The therapist was on the side to be treated.

SATW Hokuto is changed to...

STSW Hokuto... The end.

※ Wolf which had therapy by Sirius (TLN: OK, this part is weird. The SATW is an English abbreviation, while STSW is a Japanese abbreviation ‘Sirius-ni-Therapy-Sareru-Wolf’.)

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Extra

Remodeling surgery?

Reus, who scared Karen, brought himself to Sirius.

“Aniki, tell me! How can I become smaller?” (Reus)

“There are methods like cutting out parts of bones and muscles, and compressing by force from overhead... so which one? I think both will hurt a lot.” (Sirius)

“...As expected, no thanks.” (Reus)

“No no, it is important to have trial and error for such things. Experiment... would you like to try? IT'S ALRIGHT!” (Sirius)

“Aniki!? I have a feeling that you change to something weird!?” (Reus)

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Karen

The summary of her current features...

- Age is 5 years old (it may be more or less changed.)
- Having blonde hair with length to shoulder.
- She has the style of bobbed hair, similar to Emilia in volume 1.
- The wings are small only on the right side.
- She is actually pretty curious on things.

Chapter 132

The First Step to Embrace

In the end, the distance with Karen was almost not filled. We resumed our trip after finished eating breakfast.

Karen was afraid of Hokuto as ever, but since it seemed to be alright to approach her if she stuck to Fia, it was possible to make her to get on the carriage.

“That bird is... Lucain Bird.” (Karen)

“Well, do you know that flower?” (Fia)

“That is... Miori Flower. It is a flower that blooms a bit in cold weather. If you have stomach ache, you’ll be fine if you eat it.” (Karen)

“You know very well, Karen.” (Fia)

“Yes. Okaa-san taught me.” (Karen)

At the moment, Karen was sitting next to Fia and they were having an information session.

She was a bit talkative unlike last night, it might be because she had recovered some strength.

Karen’s expression didn’t changed as ever, but only when praised by Fia, I felt that she was pleased and moved her wings. It was a wonderful sight.

Perhaps, those wings would display the feeling like the siblings’ tails.

“It was written in a book that was at home.” (Karen)

“I see, you can already read letters.” (Fia)

“Just a bit only. Okaa-san taught me...” (Karen)

Karen was talking with Fia while moving and flapping her wings. Incidentally, Emilia and I who were on the coachmen seat looked at them.

By the way, Reus and Reese were running outside of the carriage, and it seemed that they were listening to their conversation.

“Aniki, Karen is amazing, isn’t it? When I was at her age, let alone letters, I also didn’t know books.” (Reus)

“Me too. Apparently, she is a studious child.” (Reese)

“You guys were living a life that didn’t involve letters. Even so...” (Sirius)

I picked a feeling out of place for a bit.

As I mentioned earlier, the Silver Wolf tribe lived deep inside forests, so there was little need to memorize letters.

According the information from hearsay and books, winged people seemed to live remote places. Therefore, there was no need for them to memorize letters. Furthermore, the point of having book was strange by itself. Were her parents secretly interacting with people?

There were also some other concerns, but she might get nervous if I asked her when she was in the middle of conversation.

‘Let’s not interrupt them.’

“Does Karen like to read books?” (Fia)

“Yes. I love reading books. I know a lot of things... it is interesting.” (Karen)

“Well, I wonder if you know this. That Miori Flower is not supposed to be crushed and ground before eating it. Actually, it is better to dry it first, then soak it in hot water and drink it.” (Fia)

“Is that so?” (Karen)

To complement Fia’s statement, Miori Flower contained sedative effects.

By drying the flower and made it as tea, useless components could be disposed and the effectiveness was better since it only had necessary ingredients.

‘By the way, caution is necessary because you would get hungry if you drink it too much.’

When Karen heard the knowledge from Fia, she flapped her wings, seemingly interested.

“But... what is this?” (Karen)

“Eh!? Uhm... it’s difficult to explain in detail. I wonder if you can understand if I say sedative effect—... Sirius, please.” (Fia)

“I don’t mind replacing you, but aren’t you afraid at me?” (Sirius)

“...Why?” (Karen)

“Somehow, you seem alright.” (Sirius)

Although she looked scared since she was holding Fia’s sleeve, I guess it was alright since she was looking at me just because she wanted me to tell her.

‘Well, if there is anything, I can just walk outside and keep a distance.’

In order to make Karen understood, I tried to explain while simplifying the information as much as possible.

“...That’s the reason, but was it a bit difficult to understand?” (Sirius)

“There was a part that I didn’t understand... but it was interesting.” (Karen)

The explanation ended while I occasionally verified whether she understood or not, but surprisingly, she displayed a distinct comprehension.

Karen wasn’t only curious. It looked like she was a smart girl.

“She seems similar to me. We like to see and know various things. When she grows up, it might be good for her to be an adventurer.” (Fia)

“Adventurer... I heard from Okaa-san that it is scary since they have to fight monsters, right?” (Karen)

“Well, it’s true that monsters are scary. Did you see the monsters yesterday?” (Fia)

“Yes. There were wolves too, but I don’t like that buzzing sound...” (Karen)

“But, do you know that the honey Karen ate this morning was coming from that despicable monster?” (Fia)

“Eh!? Even though, it was... really delicious?” (Karen)

Karen, who knew the truth, opened her eyes wide as if it was really shocking.

As she recalled it, she seems to be pleased with the honey rather than the French Toast she ate this morning.

Perhaps, it was unbelievable that the monster she hate would produce such delicious things.

“Well, when you become an adventurer, you will find out various things. On the other hand, you have to be strong enough to fight monster though.” (Fia)

“Do I have to fight?” (Karen)

“That is not necessary, but someday, you better be able to fight. What is important is to become strong. Just remember that.” (Fia)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

Fia probably wanted to tell Karen to become able to protect herself.

I also agreed with that thought, but judging from the appearance, Fia didn’t intend to force it.

More importantly, since Fia was looking with eyes filled of compassion at Karen who was nodding in wonder, there would be no problem if I entrusted the education part to her.

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Then, the carriage kept moving on the main road while we defeated the monsters that occasionally attacked us. By the time the sun had begun to set, we arrived at the town called Hungar.

Originally, I planned to arrive around noon, but since I lowered down the carriage speed so as not to surprise Karen, we arrived a bit later.

Hungar was less than half the size of Arbitray which could be called as a major power, but this town was a post town where people like adventurers and merchants gathered.

We arbitrarily used the road where many people went back and forth. Therefore, we stood out since we had existences like Fia and Hokuto.

Under such circumstances, I tried to probe the surrounding gazes...

“...For the time being, no one is turning an unusual gaze toward Karen.” (Sirius)

“The most prominent part of winged people is the wings, so if that are hidden, she looked nothing but an ordinary child.” (Emilia)

First of all, Karen was wearing a large size robe to hide her wings. Therefore, there was no need to worry if she spread her wings because of being surprised.

“In our case, there are some people who stand out more than Karen-chan...” (Reus)

“Karen. Be careful not to suddenly move your wings.” (Fia)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

Karen obediently nodded while she held onto Fia’s sleeve as she was frightened by the surrounding people.

After that, we secured an accommodation without problems in particular, and we were having dinner at the bar of the inn.

The only problem was that the owner of the inn wasn’t a beastkin, so I wonder if Hokuto had to sleep in the storeroom where we entrusted our carriage since we couldn’t bring him into the inn.

“Ooh... there is such a seasoning, isn’t it?” (Emilia)

“I think it is delicious, but I feel that the taste is too strong for me.” (Reese)

“I also think the same. As I expected, Aniki’s flavor is the best.” (Reus)

We sat on a table of six people. We were supposed to finish eating while enjoying a distinctive taste, but since the glutton-siblings, Reese and Reus still seemed to be hungry, we had to order extra.

On the other hand, Karen was...

“You just eat one of them, but have you had enough, Karen?” (Fia)

“Yes. I’m full.” (Karen)

“That’s not good, Karen. You have to eat a lot, if not, you’re not going to grow bigger.” (Reus)

“Yeah. You have to enjoy meal some more.” (Reese)

“Auuu...” (Karen)

“Please stop it. It’s not good to make her to be like you guys.” (Fia)

Although there were also children, we had a light eater among us.

As we waited for additional meal while having such conversations, we were talking about future plans.

“Let’s take it easy in this town while gathering information on winged people tomorrow. After that, it will depend on the situation.” (Sirius)

“Understood. Today, it looks like we can take a good rest on the bed after a long time.” (Emilia)

“It is safe since Hokuto is protecting us when we are camping, but as expected, having a bed gives a different feeling.” (Reese)

“Well. Karen also has difficulties staying outside, right?” (Fia)

“There’s no such a thing. I am fine since it is warm now.” (Karen)

“...That must be because you were lying on the floor with a piece of blanket. I think that it was cold in many ways.” (Emilia)

“In my case, I was together with Nee-chan, but Karen was alone...” (Reus)

Everyone was sympathizing Karen, but the person herself simply tilted her head while grasping the cup filled with fruit juice with both hands.

She probably didn’t think much because the period of slavery was short.

“Well... as you can see, she isn’t really affected. It is pointless to worry excessively.” (Sirius)

“Yeah, it was inevitable for us since we had to spend time getting used to it. Even so... she’s cute. But, it is frustrating because I can’t get closer to her.” (Emilia)

“I want to stroke Karen-chan’s head.” (Reese)

“Yeah. I also want to do that, but...” (Emilia)

“...It’s delicious.” (Karen)

In the current situation, other than Fia who Karen allowed to be embraced, she would run away when they extended their hands, as if thinking that she was about to be beaten.

While the ladies were frustrated by that, the girl drank the fruit juice on her own pace.

◇ ◇ ◇

Next day, after waking up with good feeling since this was the first time in a bed in a long time, I quickly finished preparing, and headed to the room of the ladies.

“...Karen hasn’t woken up yet?” (Sirius)

“Yes. I tried to call her many times, but...” (Fia)

“She is not waking up just as she visibly anxious.” (Emilia) (Recheck)

“I tried to shake her many times, but she still didn’t wake up.” (Reese)

“Is it... because of sickness? If that’s the case, Aniki should know it.” (Reus)

The three ladies had already woken up and were readied to leave, but Karen was still sleeping on the bed.

At first, I thought that it was due to the debilitation, but it seemed not the case when I listened to her.

“Just... a bit more...” (Karen)

“Hei, Aniki. Isn’t she... just sleeping normally?” (Reus)

“I also think the same. I wonder if she feels comfortable in the bed after not having it for a long time.” (Reese)

“That reminds me, she turned around several times when sleeping next to me. I thought that she was tired, but it seems to be different.” (Fia)

From the situation... she was likely to say ‘Five more minutes... please’. I guessed she was a kind of low blood pressure princess.

Even so, I had a feeling that she was sleeping too comfortably and it was hard to wake up.

“It can’t be helped then. I’ll go to the guild with Reus then. Everyone can take a break while watching Karen’s condition.” (Sirius)

“Yes, you can leave Karen to us.” (Emilia)

“Well then, let’s put up some strategies for a bit. So that we can stroke Karen-chan as soon as possible.” (Reese)

“It is fine to do that, but please contact me when she wakes up.” (Sirius)

Karen didn’t know how much she would be with us. Hence, if it didn’t go well, there was a possibility of roaming every corner of this continent.

This might be a drastic measure, but I explained to everyone that Karen should get

used to the crowd of people even if she had to walk around the town. By some chance, she might see acquaintances.

“Understood. Then, we will contact Sirius-sama when we are ready.” (Emilia)

“Yes. After that, let’s converge in the town. Well then, I’m going.” (Sirius)

“Please take care.” (Emilia)

“Take care.” (Reese)

“...Kuu...” (Karen)

Looking at the sleeping face of Karen who peacefully sleeping, I took Reus and we headed for the adventurer guild.

◇ ◇ ◇

“Winged people... is it?” (??)

“I heard that they are a very unusual existence, so I wonder if I can meet them.” (Sirius)

Reus and I came to the Hungar’s adventurer guild which was crowded with adventurers, and brought monster materials collected in the middle of the trip. While doing the calculation, I asked the receptionist about the winged people.

First of all, I tried asking with a light feeling, but as I asked such a question, the receptionist showed an irritated expression for a moment.

“...Let me ask you, what are you planning on looking for winged people?” (Receptionist)

“I was traveling around the world to broaden my view, so I would like to have contacts with rare sceneries and tribes. By any chance, is it forbidden to associate with winged people?” (Sirius)

“There is no such thing in particular. But, whatever it is, you should stop looking for winged people. The winged people’s settlement is the mountain range in the northeast.” (Receptionist)

“Why? We just want to meet winged people and talk to them.” (Reus)

“So, it’s your first time to be here. I see. For your information, the mountains in the northeast are vast mountain ranges known as the Dragon’s Nest. As the name suggests, it is a dangerous place where many dragons inhabit. And it is said that the winged people’s settlement is near to the center of the Dragon’s Nest...” (Receptionist)

The adventurers, who were looking for the materials of dragons and winged people, either ran away with almost dying condition or killed by the dragons.

“It sounds like a dangerous place, but how do you know that there is a settlement of winged people there?” (Sirius)

“There was once in the past where an adventurer came back and told that they encountered winged people. The adventurer also kept records, like how he encountered and persuaded intelligent dragons, and also he came back while befriending the winged people. It is a very old record, so I can’t be sure how true is it...” (Receptionist)

If there was a precedent, there must be adventurers who went there to persuade the dragons, but it seemed there were only stories about running away without meeting them.

“Anyhow, you won’t have enough lives no matter how many you have it especially in the Dragon’s Nest. So, it is better to stop from being involved with the winged people. Even though we often say that it is dangerous, there are parties who try to challenge it every year but never came back...” (Receptionist)

Although the purpose might varied, I guess the receptionist kept seeing adventurers returning in the verge of death or those who didn’t listen and didn’t come back from the Dragon’s Nest.

‘I see, that’s why she was irritated when I asked the question.’

“Understood. Thank you very much for your advice.” (Sirius)

“Your welcome. It was a great help since Sirius-sama brought the materials that we didn’t have enough.” (Receptionist)

We fought many monsters on the way here and harvested the materials, but since it

was going too much if we collected them all, we were only taking rare parts.

There were also sold materials that were too big, and then we were being sent off by the receptionist with a smile.

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After that, I asked about winged people from other people and informer. Most of it was similar to the story I heard in the guild.

There were some unusual information such as the winged people and dragons had a coexistence relationship and there was a dragon so big that it could cover the mountain... well, there were also fake information.

What was in common was that place was a dangerous place...

“Either way, we have no choice but to go to the Dragon’s Nest.” (Sirius)

I thought that there was little information since they were a rare tribe, but I was able to get credible information earlier than expected.

There were various parts to be concerned, but the most interesting point was the winged people and the dragons had a coexistence relationship.

Even if winged people whose wings could soar in the sky, when compared to the dragons, not just the size of the body, the strength was clearly different. Perhaps, there was a special ability that only winged people knew.

Due to the many mysteries and my inexhaustible interest, I thought that I would go to the winged people’s settlement even if the incident of Karen didn’t happen.

“Hei, Aniki. It is different dragon compared to the dragons that we fought at Keith’s place, right?” (Reus)

“Those dragons are low to mid level dragons. This time, the dragons are many times stronger and there are many of them, so you can’t neglect your preparation.” (Sirius)

There are various species of dragons and that were high level, mid level and low level dragons.

By the way, the Lindworms that we fought at the Arbitray castle were low level dragons, while the dragons used for parts of Dragloss were mid level dragon.

According to the story from the guild and informers, an intelligence dragon... or high level dragon had made its appearance.

“I’m not scared, but is it really alright if we go to such a place?” (Reus)

“I haven’t decided to fight the dragons yet. According to the information, I can entrust the matter of the dragons to Karen.” (Sirius)

Based on the records of the past, it seemed possible to talk with them. Therefore, if we explained the situation, we might get in through Karen. And if things went well, I also expected that we would pass through.

But, if things didn’t go well, we should also prepare for the worst in the case if they didn’t want to have a talk and it turned to battles.

There was also other method. I could ask Hokuto to force his way through while bringing Karen to the winged people’s settlement and left her there.

Anyhow, we wouldn’t know unless we went to the Dragon’s Nest.

“Well, then. We have gotten enough information, so shall we merge with everyone?” (Sirius)

“Ouh! I’m guessing that Nee-chans are trying hard to stroke Karen.” (Reus)

If they were getting along too much, it would be hard during farewell, but of course, I couldn’t ask them to stop taking care of her.

However, including Fia who had various experiences, Reese and Emilia, who knew the harshness of separating with blood related, they ought to understand it.

‘There are ways to deal with it, but I’ll them do what they want for now.’

Since I got contact from Emilia while gathering information, Reus and I headed to the center of the town, which was the meeting place at the time set.

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We found out the ladies soon since they stood out, mainly because of Fia, but... there was a quarrel between two ladies there.

“Karen-chan, which one do you want to eat?” (Emilia)

“This is delicious too, you know?” (Reese)

“...Don’t need it.” (Karen)

Emilia and Reese were trying to make Karen to eat skewered meat bought at a stall.

However, as she shook her head, they sadly put the skewered meat they had been offering to their mouth.

“Still no good, huh...” (Emilia)

“It is delicious, but it is a bit salty.” (Reese)

“But, she seems to be better than yesterday.” (Fia)

Yesterday, she was rejecting, but today, she stayed quiet and hid behind Fia’s back.

She didn’t hide for now, and it certainly became better, but...

“Is it delicious?” (Fia)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

“Hehe, I can feel different love affection from Sirius.” (Fia)

“Why is that, Fia-san? Is that a margin for a winner?” (Emilia)

“I’d like her to eat this too...” (Reese)

The skewered meat that Fia handed over was properly eaten.

Incidentally, it was also the fact that Karen wasn’t hungry, and those two were getting more frustrated.

When we were about to join them while bitterly smiling in such a situation, there were three men who approached the ladies before us.

Were they insolent bunch trying to aim for Fea and Emilia?

This kind of people usually didn't come closer if they saw Hokuto, but unfortunately, Hokuto was watching from behind today since he didn't want to scare Karen. That was why the men didn't notice him.

"Those people... Let's go Aniki." (Reus)

"No... wait a sec. Hokuto too, wait there." (Sirius)

Karen was frightened by the approaching men, but it was a bit strange. It was as if she didn't want to see those men. She even buried her face on Fia's back.

Besides, those people were... well, it was the first time seeing their faces, but from the mana reaction felt through [Search], they seemed to be the bunch who diverted the monsters to us yesterday. There were three of them in the carriage, but since they merely went passed us, they didn't know our faces.

We probably should intervene, but I came up with something, so I ordered Reus and Hokuto to wait and see for a bit.

As I prepared myself to be able to stop them at any time while killing my presence, Fia, who became wary because of Karen's state, talked to the men with sharp-looking eyes.

"...Do you have any business with us?" (Fia)

"Yo, Elf-neechan. I'd like to say that I want to get close to a beauty like you, but I have something for that child on your back." (??)

"If you have something, please say it. This child is getting scared, so I don't want you to get closer." (Fia)

"Cheh... it can't be helped then. Actually, we lost our slave, a girl of winged people, but she looks like the girl over there. Would you show her to us for a moment?" (??)

"I refuse. Besides, this girl is not a slave... she is my sister." (Fia)

“Oi oi, don’t you try to deceive us with that. You too, how long do you want to cling to her? If you are our slave, come back immediately, you little!” (??)

“Hiii!?” (Karen)

The men gradually began to get annoyed because Fia didn’t budge an inch, and the back part of the robe that Karen wore was greatly bulged.

Karen quickly folded the wings that moved reflexively, but the men were drawing closing to Fia while smiling as if they were convinced after firmly watching her.

“You are a brat, after all. Say Nee-chan, no matter how we look at it just now, she has wings, right? And it is weird for an Elf’s sister to be a winged people, isn’t it?” (??)

“We are still a family even though we are not blood related. If you don’t understand that, you guys are less of a man.” (Fia)

“What did you say!?” (??)

“Oi, it’s fine. Whether she is your sister or not, we don’t do anything wrong since she is our slave. Come here quickly...” (??)

“Please wait.” (Emilia)

“Don’t!” (Reese)

The two remaining men extended their hands, but Emilia interrupted without a moment’s delay by grasping their hands, while Reese hugged from Karen’s back to protect her.

“If you are going to do that, you will scare our sister, so will you stop it? Depending on the situation, we will also take hard measures.” (Emilia)

“Don’t you ever touch our sister, not even with one finger!” (Reese)

“Cheh... that’s enough! Don’t overdoing this by taking other people’s things!” (??)

“Hey, you say that this child is your slave since a little while ago, but do you have any evidence?” (Fia)

“Haa? We put a slavery collar on that brat-...” (??)

Reese, who understood their intention, slightly shifted the robe so that Karen's neck could be soon, and she showed her neck which the collar and the scar had been gone.

“So, how's that? Although you don't have a proof of slavery, aren't you the strange ones for saying she is yours?” (Fia)

“...What's going on!?” (??)

“That guy is holding the key... right?” (??)

“If you understand, I recommend you to go home. Otherwise... I'll make sure you have a painful experience, you know?” (Fia)

“What a confident woman. Damn it... this has become more troublesome.” (??)

“I don't dislike such a woman. If this is troublesome, I would rather bring along these girls together with the brat home, right?” (??)

“If it so, do you girls want to enjoy with us?” (??)

“Gurururu!” (Hokuto)

“““Uoooh!?””” (??)

Simultaneously with Fia's words, Reus and Hokuto gradually approached while killing their presences, and when they unleashed bloodlust, the men were hardened with cold sweats.

“Wh-why there is a monster in town? And why it is angry...” (??)

“That wolf is my Beast Companion, and you're getting involved with our family. Wouldn't it be natural to be angry if you try to harm us?” (Sirius)

“Uh, I don't care whether it is a Beast Companion or anything! Fine, let's go back, now!” (??)

“Wait a sec. I thought you want to have fun with us, right?” (Sirius)

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

“Hii!? I-I got it, so don’t come any closer!” (??)

“I’m not going to do anything if you don’t do more than that. By the way, there are things I’d like to ask. Yesterday, you guys-...” (Sirius)

“Run!” (??)

“An-anyway, let’s report to him!” (??) (Recheck)

I was trying to ask them about Karen, but... the men ran away before that.

Good grief, of course they would run away from bees and wolves if they only had that much courage.

I didn’t know what kind of social standing they had with that kind of carriage, but it was obvious that they were lack of strength.

As I saw them off while sighing, we headed to the ladies who were surrounding Karen.

“Are you alright, Nee-chan?” (Reus)

“No problem. More importantly, I’d like to ask question... Why Sirius-sama was hiding even though you were nearby?” (Emilia)

“Yeah. Karen-chan was really scared.” (Reese)

“Sorry about that. I expected that they were pushy, but I wanted Karen to understand about Emilia and Reese.” (Sirius)

“Understand... is it?” (Emilia)

“What do you mean... Aah!? So-sorry, Karen-chan. I suddenly hugged you... did it hurt?” (Reese)

“...I’m fine.” (Karen)

Reese who was hugging Karen, hurriedly left, but instead of hiding behind Fia’s back, she was looking at the three who protected her.

“I am... Onee-chan’s sister?” (Karen)

“I think so, you know. Of course, everyone else too, right?” (Fia)

“Yes. I also think that Karen-chan is my sister.” (Emilia)

“Me too. Maybe, you... don’t like it?” (Reese)

“...That’s not it. To have many Onee-chans... I’m happy.” (Karen)

Then, while Karen had her mouth slightly loosened, she firmly looked at Emilia’s and Reese’s face.

I thought that Emilia and Reese would definitely protect Karen if she was in danger, and... apparently, it worked well.

Although Karen got a bit scared, she would start get used to them. She would open her heart more if she was with the ladies only.

Since Karen had stopped running away when they slowly approached, the two were smiling at each other while doing high five.

“We did it. Next challenge is to stroke her head.” (Emilia)

“Don’t be impatient, Emilia. I also want to stroke her head, so more slowly-...” (Reese)

“You did it, Nee-chan! Say Karen, I also think you as my sister-...” (Reus)

“!?” (Karen)

Reus, who tried to take the opportunity, tried to get closer, but Karen hid behind Fia in a hurry.

Being stared by Emilia and Reese while displaying sadness from the back, Reus turned to me with a depressed appearance.

“Anikiii...” (Reus)

“Well... It can’t be helped since we are guys. I hope she will slowly understand from now.” (Sirius)

“Woof...” (Hokuto)

At that time, if we intervened to help them without entrusting the situation to the ladies, Karen might have been get used to us instead.

However, if we wanted to get along with her, rather than Reus and I who had tall bodies and being men, it was easier to do that if she was with girls.

After this, Karen would naturally get used to us when she saw us getting along with the ladies.

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Then, we took a short walk in the town, and entered a nearby restaurant. While eating lunch, I shared the information gathered.

“...Anyhow, our next destination is the Dragon’s Nest. I feel bad for going to a dangerous place, but I think that it is worth visiting.” (Sirius)

“You don’t have to apologize, Sirius-sama. We will follow you anywhere.” (Emilia)

“We have to bring Karen-chan to home soon.” (Reese)

“Even so, it is strange for that to coexist with dragons. Karen, do you have any dragons that live around the house where you were?” (Fia)

“Yes, if it is dragons, there are a lot of them. I thought that it was strange because I couldn’t find any of them here.” (Karen)

It might be quickest to ask myself, but according to Karen’s description, her house was at higher place and it was surrounded by mountains... well, that was it.

Moreover, for winged people, the dragons were natural beings, so she probably wouldn’t understand when we asked it.

“There seems to be no mistake, Aniki.” (Reus)

“Yes. Karen’s mother is probably looking for her about this time, so let’s prepare today and head there tomorrow.” (Sirius)

Everyone agreed with that decision. When we tried to finish the remaining dishes, a big voice sounded inside the restaurant.

“Here they are. They are eating the meals over there.” (??)

“Hey, I don’t want to get involved with them anymore, so should we return?” (??)

When I turned to the voice, the people we were involved earlier stood at the entrance of the restaurant.

I was thinking they came to get revenge, but somehow, it looked strange.

“Hmm... Certainly, they have familiar faces. Alright. You guys, go home. With this, it doesn’t matter to break the contract, right?” (??)

“Do you think we will do it if you ask us again later!?” (??)

“Remember, we have warned you!” (??) (Recheck)

When I looked closely, they brought a man with a distinct presence.

Then, the man brought by the bunch gave a small bag to them, and he came before us with a soft smile.

“Please forgive me. May I have a bit of your time?” (??)

“Aa... uuu...” (Karen)

“What’s wrong Karen? We’re here, so it’s alright.” (Fia)

At a glance, the man with a smile didn’t raise our wariness, but it was impossible for Karen to be frightened and hid behind Fia’s back because of that.

Anyhow, this man was...

“Let me ask one question... do you understand what you have done to us?” (Sirius)

“Of course, I do. That’s why I decided to apologize to everyone.” (??)

The man, who deeply bowed seemingly sorry, was the man who shouted from inside

a carriage and brought monsters to us yesterday.

Chapter 133

I Won't Budge Even a Step

“Let me ask one question... do you understand what you have done to us?” (Sirius)

“Of course, I do. That’s why I decided to apologize to everyone.” (??)

Even though I only saw a bit of his appearance, I remembered his face and his mana reaction. There was no mistake that this man who appeared in front of me was the one who shouted at the coachman at that time.

He seemed to be considerably older than I was, but since I felt something out of place from this guy, I decided to deal with him with a bit caution.

I’d like to ask a lot of questions, but first off, it would be better to change the arrangement of the seating because Karen was scared.

By the way, after getting the man’s understanding, I only brought along Emilia, and we moved to another table at the edge of the restaurant.

The surroundings were focusing on the Elf, Fia. So even if we were making noises, we weren’t going to attract attention.

“Please excuse me. My name is Aseed. I’m am a humble merchant who serve a certain country.” (Aseed)

“I am Sirius, an adventurer.” (Sirius)

“My name is Emilia.” (Emilia)

“Anyhow, would you like to have order something, Sirius-sama? I am here, so please don’t hesitate to ask.” (Aseed)

“It’s fine. We just finished our meal. More importantly, I will ask you this again. Are you going to admit that you came to me to apologize for pressing monsters to us?” (Sirius)

“You’re right. We were in confusion because of the unexpected situation. So, I’m really sorry about that time. I didn’t come here only to apologize, but I...” (Aseed)

As he sat in front of me, Aseed lowered his head in regret. He took out a small pouch from pocket and put in on the table.

“...What is this?” (Sirius)

“Let me apologize with this. Please don’t hesitate to accept it.” (Aseed)

The content was probably money.

He might be unwilling, but pushing monsters was also an act of killing others. If people did such a thing and it was known, that would be fatal as a merchant.

For that reason, although this money could be considered as an apology, it was possibly considered as hush money. By the way, prior to gathering information on winged people, I hadn’t reported the matter of yesterday to the guild yet.

Well, I wasn’t sure about his motive of that situation, and we went through it without suffering any injuries. It was fine to accept because Aseed came all the way here to apologize.

However, there was one thing I couldn’t forgive.

“Alright. I will accept your apology. But, I have something I want to ask you for a bit. I think that I have already heard from those men, but why did you use that little girl who was in your custody as a decoy? If you want to attract monsters, it would have been better if you just used the fruit that can attract monsters only.” (Sirius)

“As for that one, I am also having trouble with it. Everything happened when those men behave recklessly.” (Aseed)

That would be the three men who led Aseed to us and the ones who got involved with the ladies earlier.

Aseed started talking the matter of yesterday with somewhat dismayed expression.

“I have an exclusive escort, but he doesn’t have much detail about this area. Because of that, I hired those men who are familiar with the surroundings, but I didn’t expect

that they were useless..." (Aseed)

He explained the details of the surroundings, but apparently, he was lying about those who he hired since that part wasn't too detailed.

Moreover, they were arrogant even though their abilities weren't good. They were chased by bees and wolves because they were doing it on purpose and stimulating the monsters.

After that, while escaping from the monsters, the men, who got confused due to fear, threw the crying Karen into an iron box filled with fruits that attracted monsters, and threw the box away without getting consent from Aseed.

"Those men were cruel because they didn't listen to me as a client. To begin with, my business was to bring that girl to a certain person who has high position, but I never have the intention to use her as a decoy." (Aseed)

"As a matter of fact, it seems that you have given remuneration to those men, right?"
(Sirius)

"It seems they would be persistent if I don't pay, so I had to pay without looking too much. Since the circumstances have already been reported to the guild, those men would be dealt with sooner or later." (Aseed)

He didn't have enough conversations with them, but they were a bunch that loyal to desire.

If this case was reported, they would definitely receive warning from the guild. If they still hadn't changed, their bad reputation as adventurers would spread.

"That's why I didn't throw away that girl. I hope this help you understand." (Aseed)

"Yes, I understand a lot of things. We're not the only ones who have business." (Sirius)

"Yes. As you can imagine, I came to this town wasn't only to apologize to everyone, but also to find that girl." (Aseed)

Aseed and his group seemed to have returned to the spot where Karen was dropped after confirming that the monsters didn't follow them. Apparently, they noticed that they couldn't see any blood stains even though they were many monster corpses.

Taking this into consideration, Aseed believed that there was a possibility that Karen was still alive away from the scene. So, he visited this town to chase us and he ordered those men to take responsibility. That was why those men were trying to take Karen away.

Then, Aseed knew about us from the men who ran away.

Anyhow, after explaining this far, he started to lower his voice so that it couldn't be heard by the surroundings.

"I thought I had heard wrong when I heard from the men that collar has been taken off." (Aseed)

"Yes, it is. It was already off when we took care of her, but weren't you using a defective product?" (Sirius)

"That shouldn't be... No, I'm not sure what the reason is, but there is no mistake that the girl is my slave. Would you mind returning her to me?" (Aseed)

"Whatever it is, she has no collar and she is no longer a slave. And since she is in our custody, we don't have the obligation to return it to you, right?" (Sirius)

"Is that so? Well then, would you please sell the girl to me?" (Aseed)

Aseed, who made a serious expression, placed a pouch that was one size bigger than the previous one in front of me.

When the pouch was opened, it was filled with gold coins as expected. From the size of the bag, there should be more than one hundred gold coins.

"I am aware that this is an insolent request. However, my life will be in danger if the girl is not returned to me. Could you please accept this?" (Aseed)

"..." (Sirius)

"Is it not enough? Then, how about this?" (Aseed)

As I didn't say anything, he took a same size pouch and brought it before me, but I threw the two pouches back to him while sighing.

“...As expected, are you still angry about the matter of monsters? Or because of the men were rude?” (Aseed)

“It doesn’t matter. I simply don’t want to return her to you.” (Sirius)

He refused to back down while displaying sorrow as if he were trying to appeal, but I clearly declined.

It was alright if Karen said that she wanted to go with him, but it was obvious that she didn’t want it to the point of being scared.

Although he didn’t admit to make her as a decoy, or rather than being angry at him for not dismissing those men who did such a thing, I just couldn’t forgive him for not giving her enough food to eat.

When I looked at Emilia who stayed by my side, she was secretly wagging her tail enough not to be seen by that man while having a serious look. She was glad that I refused that man outright, I guessed.

“...Though I say this, no one can buy her as expensive as I am, right? No matter how rare the winged people are, she is just a winged person with failure wings...” (Aseed)

“Even if the child is different from others, what’s wrong with it? No matter how much money you have, my answer remains the same.” (Sirius)

I took her into custody because I planned to bring her to her parents, and as the ladies in the house said, Karen was like a younger sister.

“But-...” (Aseed)

“You have heard him. We will properly take care of the girl, so leave us.” (Emilia)

Emilia interrupted and silenced Aseed at superb timing.

Aseed became loss of words because of the splendid bow fostered by the attendant upbringing, but after a while, he started to scratch his head with a bitter expression.

“Tsk... seriously, aren’t you interested in money? What a troublesome guy.” (Aseed)

It was small muttering that could only be heard be the person himself, but I was able

to hear it because I strengthen my ear with mana.

Apparently, that was his true nature.

Anyhow, unlike the bitter expression he showed until now, he was grinding his teeth in anger.

“I heard you. From the smile that you showed until a while ago, your look now suits you more.” (Sirius)

“...You are really a difficult guy. This would be easy if you obediently receive the money.” (Aseed)

Showing a sociable and having polite attitude were his methods to throw people off guard.

It seemed that he was trying to induce sympathy and concluded the situation with a desired result, but this wasn’t how it went.

I had seen hypocrites and smooth talkers many times in the previous life.

This was the feeling out of place that I had since the beginning of the meeting, and the reason I was being difficult and didn’t behave modestly was this.

Knowing that I wouldn’t move with money, Aseed glared at me while furiously smacking the table with fingers.

“I didn’t say bad things. I suggest you to return that failure immediately.” (Aseed)

“I’ve told you that I refuse. You may use that money to find a suitable slave.” (Sirius)

“I will not have any difficulties if I can do that. You guys probably have reasonable abilities, but I suggest you to stop this time. If you get in my way, you will make a country to be your enemy, got it?” (Aseed)

“...Which country?” (Sirius)

“You seem to understand. Then, let me tell you this. The one who wants the winged people is the lord of Obelisk.” (Aseed)

Obelisk... I had never been there yet, but was it one of the countries involved in the intercontinental meeting mentioned by the Beast King?

There was a possibility that Aseed was lying, but in addition to having full confidence, he seemed to have financial capabilities since he easily offered me money... it seemed that he had a backer from how laidback he was. There was no way I could ignore this.

"He is a weird fellow with a hobby of collecting rare tribes, and he is a regular customer with lots of money. This money is also part of the upfront payment." (Aseed)

"I see. That much is only part of it, right? Does he really want winged people that much?" (Sirius)

"That guy's obsession is to a great extent, you know? If I report this matter, he probably put you in a wanted list. Look, if you understand this, return that failure immediately. Because of those trashes, my schedule is getting out of order-..." (Aseed)

"I refuse." (Sirius)

"...Are you insane? I told you, you will be targeted by that country, you know?" (Aseed)

"I understand well. So, what about it?" (Sirius)

I clearly said that while looking straight at Aseed.

Obelisk was a major country that was comparable to Arbitray, so if we opposed them, it would be certain that we would be in trouble. However, there was no need to weigh the options if we could send Karen to her parent. I probably didn't have to ask, but I was sure that my companions would agree.

Besides...

"It is true that if it may be a treat if we turn the country into enemy, but this place is far away from Obelisk." (Sirius)

"Stop pretending to be tough. Just so you know, that country is famous for its unforgiveness to enemies. There is a rumor that they are raising elite purging troops. Let alone putting you in a wanted list, they will calmly assassinate you guys-..." (Aseed)

“That will be the story if you could safely return to Obelisk... right?” (Sirius)

If the other side threatened, I would also threaten back.

No matter how big the country was, we wouldn't be targeted if he didn't inform the matter.

When I glared at him with the will of complete resistance, a trembling expression could be seen from his face.

However, it seemed that he was used to trade with big countries like Obelisk. That expression dissipated soon. Aseed and I continued the glaring for a while.

“...Are you really planning to do that?” (Aseed)

“I will not say such a thing as a joke. If it is a rare tribe, you probably be deceived since you haven't seen it, and if you search more, you may be able to meet other winged people. Everything depends on you.” (Sirius)

In other words, if he didn't plan to forget the matter of us and Karen, I didn't mind killing him here.

When I unleashed bloodlust at the degree that didn't create disturbance, Aseed looked up while letting out a sigh.

“Tsk... Life is regrettable, but you are missing something that you can barely find. If it so... will you have match with me?” (Aseed)

“...What is the content and conditions then?” (Sirius)

“It will be a match outside the town in the early morning of tomorrow. Each side will put up one representative. If I win, you will return that failure.” (Aseed)

“I don't mind fighting, but it will be troublesome if you still begrudge even if we win.” (Sirius)

“Heh, don't underestimate me. Although I am doing this, trust is very important as a merchant. I will give up on that failure if I lost, and of course, I will not say anything to Obelisk. I just can't allow myself to let go the ‘goods’ that I have obtained.” (Aseed)

One of their characteristics was persistent... and he was talking even while receiving the bloodlust.

Although he ran away from monsters yesterday, he had confidence. From the conversation onwards, I confirmed that his exclusive escort was a senior adventurer.

Since it was unsparing to fight while protecting the escort subject and hiding in the crowd, they ran away at the discretion of the escort.

To sum up, he thought that he could win if it was a match.

I didn't really trust him, but if I didn't accept the challenge, he would report it to Obelisk, and the surrounding eyes would start to look at us because of strange mood.

This time, it was a point of compromise.

“...Got it. Let's have a match.” (Sirius)

“It never gets wrong to do it this way! Well, tomorrow-...” (Aseed)

After deciding simple rules and to gather at a place slightly away from the town in the early morning of tomorrow, Aseed got up after collecting the pouches that he put on the table.

“Well then, please excuse me. You can prepare the parting with the child until tomorrow, alright.” (Aseed)

“Wait. Did you forget this pouch?” (Sirius)

“I had caused you inconveniences, so I will give it to you.” (Aseed)

Since his condition went back to the time when I first met him, it looked like our talk ended here.

In terms of money that I had at this moment, I still had much room. But, there were many uses for this money, so I would accept it as an apology.

By the way, when I saw Aseed went out of dining room without turning around, I noticed that Emilia was frowning in anger.

“That man only sees Karen-chan as goods, doesn’t he? Besides, even if the wings are slightly unusual, he doesn’t have to call her that...” (Emilia)

“He is a completely practical man. I also understand why Karen is scared.” (Sirius)

“...I definitely won’t allow Karen to return to that man.” (Emilia)

“Yeah. However, it is going to be troublesome if this involves the country, so from now on, we have to respond with caution. If there is anything, I will leave it to you.” (Sirius)

“Please leave it to me. No matter who the opponent is, I don’t plan to lose.” (Emilia)

“Those very encouraging words, isn’t it?” (Sirius)

“I am Sirius-sama’s attendant, after all.” (Emilia)

I was already familiar with Emilia’s smiles and words, but I was still satisfied when I looked at that smile.

“Yeah. Well, I am also happy that Emilia is my attendant. Of course, as a lover too.” (Sirius)

“Sirius-sama... ehehe...” (Emilia)

This was likely to involve everyone in danger because of my decision and in this situation, those who weren’t involved would probably get angry.

Whether there was a tribal or blood ties, even if we were teacher and disciples, we were families.

Although it was merely a day of encounter, Karen was also the same especially when everyone said that she was like a sister.

Far from talking to me, she barely spoke to anyone. Personally, there were also things we couldn’t do even though Karen’s future seemed promising.

There were many considerations, but for now, we would do our utmost to protect Karen.

I stroke Emilia’s head and after that, we returned to everyone.

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When I returned, I thought that Karen supposed to be calm since Aseed had gone, but... the situation was strange.

Rather than grabbing Fia's sleeve due to fear, she looked anxious while watching me returned.

When I unintentionally tilted my head, the person who still couldn't get close to her, Reus, explained what happened.

"Karen is scared because she probably thinks that she would be handed over to the man earlier." (Reus)

"Let me tell you all. I will not do that, but she was enslaved by him. That's why she is worried." (Sirius)

"Even though we couldn't hear anything from here, the mood of that man was clearly changing along the way, right? Can you please tell us what happened?" (Fia)

I informed the result because everyone looked interested, and now since Karen was here, I left the part about Obelisk and the match tomorrow.

I didn't know if she would understand it or not, but I didn't want her to worry anymore. 'Let's inform that to everyone later using [Call]'

"By the way, don't worry about it because I clearly refused to return Karen." (Sirius)

"See, I told you, right? If it's Sirius-san, it's going to be alright." (Reese)

"...Yeah." (Karen)

"Alright, that guy is also no longer here, so we shall go, Aniki." (Reus)

Since the dishes that had been eaten up were beautifully arranged on the table, it seemed that they had finished eating the extra orders while I was talking with Aseed.

Although it had become a lunch longer than expected, we returned so that we could go for shopping for tomorrow onward as planned.

However, I had something to do before that. After getting off from the chair, I knelt before Karen and looked straight into her eyes.

Karen was wary of me, but since she didn't run away, I had to ask this.

“Karen. We still haven’t heard what you want to do.” (Sirius)

“...What I want to do?” (Karen)

“That’s right. We will protect Karen, and we plan to bring you to your mother. But, we haven’t heard anything that you want to do from your mouth yet.” (Sirius)

Protecting Karen and bringing her to her mother were something that we arbitrarily wanted to do, and Karen merely nodded for now. Depending on whose viewpoint, she was being together with us because we were doing things that led to it.

It was probably meaningless to ask if she shouldn’t go home, but I thought that it was very important to communicate with own mouth.

Although this might be a short term relationship, I would like her to grow up so that she could express more about herself.

“You are free the moment the collar is taken off. That’s why I want you to tell me by using your own mouth. Do you want to go home?” (Sirius)

“...I... want to go home. I... want to see Okaa-san.” (Karen)

“Yes, I got it. We will take you there, but do you want to come with us?” (Sirius)

“Yes. I will go together with Onee-chans... I want to go!” (Karen)

Even though she looked embarrassed, she clearly replied while looking at us.

I nodded in satisfaction since she was alright with this, and I noticed that the ladies were hardened as if their chests were shot.

“Aah... she’s so cute.” (Emilia)

“I-I also want to go together with Karen-chan!” (Reese)

“You can leave it to Onee-chans. We will definitely bring you home.” (Fia)

It was this kind of thing that grabbed the heart.

Coincidentally, Karen showed an exquisite expression toward maternal instinct and protection desire.

‘Nevertheless, only Onee-chans, huh?’

It seemed that it would take more time to get used to men like me and Reus.

“Aniki. This morning, Nee-chans had a strategy meeting. Shouldn’t we also do that?” (Reus)

“...I guess so.” (Sirius)

It would be a meeting... together with Hokuto.

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Then, we went shopping for the necessary items. After finished eating dinner, we returned to the inn.

While Karen’s eyes was busy with the shopping, I explained about the match and the possibility of making Obelisk as our enemy, but all of them chose Karen without hesitation even if it was dangerous.

They were indeed reliable because they had decided, but it would be the best to avoid confrontation.

After entrusting matters to the siblings, I finished my preparation and headed to the room of the ladies.

“Has Karen already gone to bed?” (Sirius)

“Yes. It seems she fell asleep while I was away for a bit.” (Fia)

Somehow I felt that there was something similar this morning, but she probably was tired from walking around shopping. When I entered the room, Karen was sleeping in bed, while lying face down.

As I closely looked, she slept with the face on an open book. It was a spectacle that made one loosened his mouth naturally.

“Even if the book is interesting, it looks like she couldn’t win over sleepiness.” (Fia)

That book was found while shopping in town.

It was an illustrative book in which ecology of plants native to this continent was written, and since Karen looked interested, I bought it and gave it as a gift.

Unfortunately, she didn’t show a smile even when I gave a present, but since she loosened up her mouth and said thanks, I thought that was good enough.

With the exception of dinner time, Karen was absorbed in reading the book until she fell asleep.

“At first, I tried to read it while putting on my lap, but she didn’t allow me.” (Reese)

“I’m concerned about the posture. I would like her to sit down and read it.” (Sirius)

It was probably hard to face up because of the wings, but I would be at least relieved if she lied sideways.

While smiling wryly, Reese, who had a gentle smile, slowly approaching.

“You’ll have a mark on your face if it’s like this, so I’ll put the book to the side, alright.” (Reese)

“...Unyaa...” (Karen)

“Hauu!?” (Reese)

Karen, who supposed to be sleeping, clung to Reese’s arm when she tried to put away the book.

While looking at Reese who was puzzled but happily smiled, Fia, who stood next to me, nodded to give consent.

“As expected, Karen seems to have an unconscious habit of clinging when she is asleep. She also clung to my arm yesterday.” (Fia)

“Well, it’s probably fine to be a body pillow.” (Sirius)

“That’s cute, but I am a bit concern because she is too defenseless.” (Fia)

“Well, it is unconscious. Once you confirm it, why don’t you ask her what she wants?” (Sirius)

If it was a pillow made with Hokuto’s fur, she probably got used to him since she would unconsciously remember the smell and the feel.

However, the drawback was that took long time to make. The fur rarely fell even when I brushed Hokuto. Cutting his fur was indeed sad.

It couldn’t be helped since Karen was still a child, but I also understand what Fia said. Since Karen was similar to her in a way that they were from tribes which easily targeted, Fia wanted her to have a sense of crisis even a bit.

As she was troubled while watching the innocent sleeping face of Karen, she gently got close to her while narrowing her eyes and smiling.

“Hehe... we are like a couple who feel trouble on how to raise children, isn’t it?” (Fia)

“I wonder what kind of feeling when I have children.” (Sirius)

“When are we going to have children? I don’t mind because I can do it anytime.” (Fia)

“I’m weak when you say that, but...” (Sirius)

Actually, Fia was taking the opportunity to have baby because she longed for it, but it was impossible for me to say this.

I heard that the birth rate of Elves was extremely low, but I didn’t expect it to be that much.

Since there were precedents of them giving birth even with human partner, I thought that there was some kind of regularity, but...

“I’m sorry. When I look at Karen, I feel like wanting a child. You don’t have to feel bad because I am an Elf...” (Fia)

“Don’t worry about it. I will also try hard as well, so let’s do it without holding back. Aren’t we enjoying life?” (Sirius)

“...You’re right. Not only as a mother, I should also enjoy every day as a lover. By the way, are you planning to leave already?” (Fia)

“Yes. I will come back before everyone sleeps.” (Sirius)

“I don’t think Sirius would be careless, but please be careful.” (Fia)

“Please leave Karen-chan to us.” (Reese)

Even though they understood what I was trying to do, Reese and Fia sent me off with smiles.

While thanking those two, I returned to my room.

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When I returned to the room, the siblings, who were working in the front of a desk, noticed me and raised their faces.

They were also carrying weapons like me. We were certainly going to fight from now.

“Sirius-sama. We are done with the preparation.” (Emilia)

“Me too. Hokuto-san also asked me earlier but there is no problem.” (Reus)

The thing that I looked at while the siblings were preparing was a rough sketch of this town’s layout.

In the rough sketch, the inn where we stayed was at the center of it. The raid route and the passages that were likely to be blind spots were circled.

The preparation I asked the siblings to do was to make the rough sketch by walking around the inn.

“Well done. As planned, the defense of this position is up to Emilia. Reus will be in charge of decoy and intimidation from the front. If there is anything, you can adapt flexibly.” (Sirius)

“Understood.” (Emilia)

“Leave it to us, Aniki!” (Reus)

“I will try to collect information while moving around. Depending on the circumstances, I will leave things to you since I’ll be away from now on.” (Sirius)

Although we would have a match against Aseed in the early morning of tomorrow, why were we preparing to go for battle?

That was because Karen was aimed and there was also a possibility that Aseed’s assassin would come to attack us.

“But Aniki, are they really going to come?” (Reus)

“That sort of greedy type will not easily give up, so it is a sure thing to do.” (Sirius)

At that time... Aseed said that trust was very important for merchants, but it was suspicious when he calmly threatened. On top of that, he had a powerful backer.

Such a guy was asking for a match because let alone threatening me, he was instead got threatened. Judging that he couldn’t win even if they fought us in that place, that match was an excuse to retreat.

If Aseed managed to secure Karen by sending assassins in the night, there was no need to deal with us by having that match.

Doing the match in the early morning was also his trick to make us went to bed early.

Of course, there might be no raid, but we would deal with them when the time came.

We could beat them without holding back in the match tomorrow, so this was just a matter of planting fears so that they would never get involved with us again.

“That guy understands that we have to ability to defeat groups of monsters. It is fine if they attack in group, but it is also highly likely that he hires people behind the scenes to infiltrate. Keep the present sharp.” (Sirius)

“Ouh! If they are coming and sneaking it, we will match them.” (Reus)

“Yes. No matter what kinds of enemies are coming, they are easier than finding the hidden Sirius-sama.” (Emilia)

It would be a very difficult technique to hide from Hokuto and the Silver Wolfkin who had excellent olfaction and sharp intuition.

Recently, if I didn't seriously hide, I would be found out soon.

“Don't push yourself since we don't know what kind of things the people who don't really show up in public would do. Remember, our utmost priority is to protect Karen.” (Sirius)

Everyone knew that I was moving behind the scenes, but they purposely didn't say anything since they were considering my feelings.

But didn't they say that they didn't like to be protected about half a year ago?

Since then, when I explained everyone that there would be an attack from the enemies who were involved with the underworld, they wanted to help. They weren't children anymore, so I allowed them to acquire various experiences.

However, I had no plan to allow them to do this kind of assassination.

This kind of dirty work was good for me alone.

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When the midnight came and people were supposed to sleep... I was sitting on the roof of the inn, and I noticed unusual presences from the downwind.

After that, I intuitively used [Search], and I caught several reactions approaching here.

There were obviously a lot of drunkards, but there was no mistake that they were heading straight to our direction with systematic movements.

I leaped from the roof while invoking [Call] to the siblings who were waiting at another place.

{It seems they came. Move according to the plan.} (Sirius)

{Yes.} (Emilia/Reus)

‘Well then, shall I sweep the sparks?’

I landed without sound and I hid myself by blending into the dark night.

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Extra/Bonus – Faithful to desire

“You are free the moment the collar is taken off. That’s why I want you to tell me what you want to do by using your own mouth.

“...I want to eat honey.” (Karen)

“...Here you go.” (Sirius)

“Oh... it’s the first time to see Aniki with complicated look!” (Reus)

Chapter 134

Retribution

— Aseed —

On the night that I encountered those impertinent bunches, I was cursing while drinking in an inn.

“Good grief, why isn’t this going well...?” (Aseed)

Even though I stayed in the most exclusive inn in the town, and drank alcohol after finishing the job, the feeling of irritation hadn’t disappeared from a while ago.

Originally, in addition to being able to secure the target, which was the winged people, I should still have a considerable amount of deposit money.

A few months ago... my regular customer, the lord of Obelisk, said that he wanted winged people.

I accepted the request because I was attracted with the numerous rewards and deposit payment without batting eyelids, but when I came to the actual place and conducted investigation, the winged people turned out to be a troublesome tribe more than imagined.

I thought that it was due to their small number, but I didn’t expect that they lived in the mountains where the dragon lived. That fellow gave out a huge amount of money without hesitation.

He might feel annoyed if I didn’t get a good result. In the worst case scenario, I had considered to run away if he wanted to kill me, but... as I expected, the rewards were hard to ignore.

Accordingly, I decided to hire adventurers who were familiar with the area.

I plan to hire adventurers who would guide me to the dragon’s nest, and I’d decided to kidnap the winged people without attracting the dragons’ attention.

I found adventurers who met the requirements on the way to the destination, and... we were able to secure a winged person by chance.

I found a brat of winged people washed ashore while taking a break on the side of a river. She was probably swept from the upstream. When I examined her, she still had a breath.

The shape of the wings was weird, unlike the winged people, but there was no mistake that this brat was a winged person. After that, I started going back to Obelisk while giving the brat meals to the extent that she wouldn't die.

I was excited because of the thought of getting a lot of money without having too much trouble, but...

“Damn it... no matter how many times I think about it, it makes me angry. Those trashes are retarded!” (Aseed)

The bunch that I hired decided not to guide me but to challenge the dragon in order to be decoy.

For that reason, I hired these adventurers because I could easily convince with words, but when I took eyes off them, they found a magical beehive and arbitrarily headed there.

Thanks to that, we were chased by the group of monsters, but the thing that I couldn't forgive was that they threw the failure out of the carriage without permission as a diversion.

Although it was enough to get away from the monsters if we kept running, those bastards were really getting into the nerve.

“Good grief. I've always come across those with such abilities and bravado until now.” (Aseed)

“Ouh, it's good to be lucky.” (??)

The two men, Mad and Dora, who heard such a grumble, nodded in agreement.

These two were senior adventurers. They were siblings who were escorting me. There was a coincidence in interest, but it might be because I had met them one after another,

so our relation was a long one.

“Well, it seems that luck follows until here as well.” (Mad)

“The moment that we are aimed has ended.” (Dora)

“It was refreshing because I was pissed off.” (Aseed)

Those trashes were dealt this sibling’s hands.

Although I was frustrated, that was also to retrieve the money from them since I didn’t want to pay them even a single stone coin.

In addition, I would rather they returned the food expenses, but unfortunately, they didn’t have money other than the money I paid them. Even if they died, I was still angry with them.

“By the way, brother. I entrusted those people to you, but you definitely killed him, right?” (Mad)

“Aah...” (Dora)

“Don’t ‘Aah’ with me! Didn’t I say before to crush their heads!?” (Mad)

“Since I crushed them here and there, they would run out of blood and they should be dead by now.” (Dora)

“...Seriously. Don’t get too absorbed about crushing flash. How many times have I told you that?” (Aseed)

“Well, I have already sent them off. Now, the problem is those people.” (Mad)

As a result, it was good that the failure was alive, but the people who took care of her... especially that impudent youngster was troublesome.

He didn’t show interest in money at all. Let alone threatening him with the name of Obelisk, conversely, I was threatened.

Moreover, even though we pushed the group of monsters while we were escaping, I didn’t see them getting any damage at all. In other words, that was evidence that they

had considerable abilities, and it was difficult to forcibly take her away from them.

Judging that it was impossible with a direct approach, I left him with a suitable reason. To deal with the youngster and retrieved the failure, I asked the underworld organization of this town and the adventurers who had problem with money.

Thanks to that, the deposit money now was all gone. But if I sold the Elf and the Silver Wolfkin, who were among them, to Obelisk, there should be no problem since I would earn enough.

“There are no more than five people, but just to be sure, I sent quite a few people. While the adventurers fight from the front, the people from the underworld would bring them down from the rear. Some of them will meet their end this evening—...”
(Aseed)

“Oh, it seems they are coming to report, huh?” (Mad)

“He’s right there.” (Dora)

The siblings who had sharper senses than me looked to their side, and then, we heard a knock from the door.

I didn’t ordered additional food or drink, so...

“Who are you?” (Mad)

“...It’s me. I am reporting the completion of the request.” (??)

“Oh, I have been waiting.” (Mad)

The siblings opened the door with caution, and a man covered in deeply hood stood there while holding a big bag.

I couldn’t see the face well, but with a slight scratch on the face and the sharp gaze that comes from those who lived in the underworld, I had no doubt that he was the one whom I had negotiated.

“What’s the result?” (Aseed)

“She is inside this. Now, she is sleeping because of drug.” (??)

As the man entered the room, he dropped the bag he carried on the floor.

The sound of shock that came out from the opening of the bag seemed to be part of the wings.

“Oi, what happened to the rest of women?” (Mad)

“If this is about the Elf and the Silver Wolfkin, I have entrusted them to my subordinates who are waiting outside. I came here to receive the money as I expected.” (??)

“...That’s fine. By the way, I assume that you surely have dealt with the impudent youngster, right?” (Aseed)

“Of course, I didn’t forget him. I collected this from him.” (??)

While saying so, the thing that he took out was the pouch of gold coins that I handed as an apology to that youngster.

Although it looked like a pouch that could be seen everywhere, I remembered it well since I prepared it unwillingly.

“That’s fine. Here, this is the reward. I honestly give this to you because I’m fair, you know that, right?” (Aseed)

“I wonder. By the way, I did the job as promised. You don’t have to say unnecessary things.” (??)

There were over a hundred gold coins for the reward, but since it was more profitable for the side that was going to sell the failure and the Elf, the man received it with bitter look.

The time when I gave the request, he was hesitated because this was a loss. However, when I mentioned the name of Obelisk, he accepted the request as if he didn’t have any other choice. As I expected, he had to accept in consideration of the risk of turning a large country into an enemy.

‘Yes... it would be like this if the youngster is normal, but he is strange.’

‘Well, I guess it doesn’t matter anyway. I wasn’t sure it was foolish to decide that by

emotion, but he was already being dealt with.'

"If you can secure them, don't worry about it. Well then, bring them to me." (Aseed)

"...Wait a moment." (???)

After the man left the room, first, we had a toast with a cup of sake in our hands.

"I was wondering what would happen on the way, but isn't good since we got the Elf? With that, we can live in luxury for a while." (Aseed)

"Say, the Elf wasn't in our plan, right? So, there's no problem if we have her, right?" (Mad)

"It's my first time to taste an Elf." (Dora)

"Aah, that fellow emphasizes more about tribe rather than first catch. Of course, I'm also going to taste her first, but you guys be careful not to break her, alright? I know you guys have wreaked a prostitute in the previous town." (Aseed)

"She was rude, and I had to educate her. I will treat the woman properly this time, so don't worry." (Mad)

"Yes." (Dora)

Although extreme frustration had been piling up because of useless things, the best thing to do was to let out the feeling and embrace a woman in this kind of time.

Moreover, today's partner was an Elf, and it was worth having patience for not asking a prostitute.

There were exactly three slave collars left. As I came and picked up the bag as soon as I was there, the siblings, who were excited until a while ago, suddenly began to look over the room with a serious look.

When I was wondering what was with the sudden attitude, I noticed that the door of the room where the man went out was left opened.

"That bastard, close the door if you open it." (Aseed)

“Don’t move!” (Mad)

Since Mad acquired bandit techniques as a scout, his senses were very sharp. This wasn’t a trivial matter since let alone being cautious, he took out a knife.

As I was a bit late of getting cautious because of the siblings, I was wondering why Mad suddenly threw the knife toward the corner of the room, and something popped out from there.

“I’ve heard everything.” (??)

The one who showed up was... that youngster who got the failure.

‘I had told them to kill him, but to stay alive... No, was he deceiving me?’

That youngster came closer when I was thinking so, but the situation in front of me was progressing greatly.

“Don’t say such an insolent. My knife saw everything... guh!?” (Mad)

“Anija... hebuuh!” (Dora) (*TLN: Aniki = Anija*)

‘...What is going on?’

At first, Mad was obviously dominating, but when I realized, Mad, who had abilities equal to senior adventurers, was knocked down.

After that, Dora, who was late a moment, tried to hit that youngster, but he took several beats with flowing peculiar movements, and he fell on the floor.

“Wh-why are you here!? You are supposed to be dealt with...” (Aseed)

When I asked so as I was the only left standing, the youngster slowly turned toward me.

The gaze was clearly different from the state of daytime. It was sharper no less than the man earlier.

He was in a distance that I couldn’t reach with my hand, but it felt like a knife was being thrust against my neck. That youngster...

“If you have something to say... say it.” (Sirius)

He had a gentle smile that didn’t suit the occasion.

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— Sirius —

As the group aiming at here approached, I confirmed the siblings’ condition while hiding in the bushes growing around the inn.

Based on the result of a wide range of [Search], the number of suspicious reactions approaching here was about thirty. Not long after that, ten of them were separated, and seemed to be approaching the inn from a different direction.

The remaining twenty people approached as they imposingly walked down the street, but apparently, they encountered Reus who was standing at a distance away from the entrance of the inn.

“Who are you? Since we have business with the inn over there, move away quickly.”
(??)

“Twenty, is it?... That’s fine.” (Reus)

Reus was in charge of the front side to intercept the approaching enemies.

Those who came in front of Reus were the ruffians hired by Aseed for money. From a wide variety of attires, it seemed that there were many adventurers mixed in the group.

Since Aseed knew a little about our abilities, I didn’t think he knew that he couldn’t win with numbers.

In other words, these people were decoy, and the real one was probably pressing from another direction. His objective was Karen, so I guessed he had no reason in particular to kill us.

“Wait a sec. That ears... he is a Silver Wolfkin I heard from that man. Is he our target?”
(??)

“No, the one we should injure is the female while the male should be dealt with.” (??)

“If that is so, shall we surround him and do it at once?” (??)

“Hey, could you tell me what your purpose of coming here is?” (Reus)

The reply from the adventurers who were calmly questioned by Reus was they pointed their weapons at him.

Reus sighed when looking at that situation. He pulled out the greatsword carried on his shoulder, took a stand of ‘Single Strike Ultimate Destruction Sword Style’ and spoke once again.

“Let me tell you this first. I will not go after you guys if you just go home. But, I will show no mercy if you attack me.” (Reus)

“He is extremely confident with this number of people. Are you thinking that we are polite enough to take you on one by one?” (??)

“We would do that usually, but this is a request after all. We will end this quickly.” (??)

“Adventurers often have this kind of thing. If it’s about grudge, you should direct it to that man.” (??)

“No matter how I look at it, you guys look nothing but bandits. Isn’t weird for you guys to think of doing this as adventurers?” (Reus)

“What an impudent talk- uhh!?” (??)

There was a man who tried to leap out because of Reus’ sharp declaration, but he couldn’t even take one step.

Anyhow, Reus stepped on earlier than anyone and the cutting edge of his greatsword was swung in front of the man.

The adventurer, who was unable to keep up with his movement, was stunned. Then, Reus lifted up the greatsword and looked at the surrounding again.

“This is my last warning. As expected, it’s hard to adjust my strength, so I don’t care if you die, alright?” (Reus)

“Don’t make fun of... guhoo!” (??)

“If we take him at the same time... gahaa!?” (??)

The adventurers, who regained their mind, approached Reus, but they were blown off one after another as Reus’ armguard shook, and they disappeared into the nearby bushes and the darkness of the night. When they approached him, it seems like there was a wall that automatically repelled them.

It was a special technique that created air superiority in the range that his weapon could reach. In exchange of unable to move from the spot, it made him had sharper senses.

“Wha, why we can’t get closer!?” (??)

“Use knife! Throw it and attack from a distance!” (??)

“Too slow!” (Reus)

Of course, Reus also interacted to projectile weapons. Knives were thrown simultaneously from the surroundings, but he knocked it all over with the greatsword and the armguard.

The time to use such a technique was limited, and since it was recently taught, he was still practicing it. However, it was good enough for the enemies of this level.

“Th-that didn’t work. What’s going on!?” (??)

“...What now?” (??)

“He said he will not chase after us... if we run away from here, right?” (??)

Indeed, they understood the difference in ability when nearly ten people already suffered damaged. Those adventurers started trembling non-stop.

They seemed to be undecided whether to run away or not, but if they had spare time to consider, they should run away though. If Reus wasn’t going easy, their bodies would be sliced into two, and the surroundings would dye red.

Even so, those who still hadn’t given up, would boldly rushed in, but... the result was

the same.

They collapsed while groaning at the same time.

“Fuh!” (Reus)

When Reus suddenly swung his great sword at the space without anyone, a black knife fell to the ground together with a shrill sound.

It was a knife that was painted in black to make it blend in the night. This kind of knife was often used by the underworld for assassination and something alike.

These things are basically poisoned. Although I considered of shooting it down with [Magnum], it seemed that it wasn't necessary.

Actually, while the adventurers were attacking, black knives had been thrown many times, but Reus splendidly repelled it.

“All attacks didn't work from a while ago. Don't hide. Come out.” (??)

The knives that were thrown by those underworld people who hid behind a building.

They were two people. Although they threw the knives in spite of the openings, Reus was still aware of them.

Nevertheless, even though he was assaulted by other attacks, I thought that they should pull out once they noticed that it was impossible after throwing it for three times.

Because of the lack of judgment, they weren't the ones that I was looking for.

Since those adventurers were losing their will to fight, Reus shouldn't have any problem here alone.

While reassuring that Reus was standing like a guardian deity, I left the spot.

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When Reus was fighting the battle, two men, who covered their faces with clothes on the other side of the building, were quietly approaching the back door.

It wasn't uncommon for drunken people and those with bad manners to make noises in town. Therefore, even if someone was more or less loud outside, guests of the inn were merely sleeping without worrying about it. In other words, those two intruded the inn and headed toward the room where Karen was by taking the opportunity of the uproar.

At that time when they reached the back door, they felt the sound and sign of wind from behind. They looked back at the same time while drawing knives.

“What is your reason for coming to such a place?” (Emilia)

The one who was there was Emilia. She jumped off from the top of the roof.

The men, who received Emilia's elegant bow, were puzzled for a moment, but they immediately regained mind and became alert.

When I closely looked at them, one of the men took out a rope. Apparently, he intended to capture Emilia rather than to dispose witnesses. Although Emilia's tribe, the Silver Wolf tribe wasn't as rare as the Elves or winged people, but they were still considered as a rare tribe. It looked like Karen wasn't the only aim.

“...We were told to catch you.” (??)

“But, they didn't tell us to leave you unharmed. As long as you submit nicely, you won't become like that, you know?” (??)

“Thank you very much for your advice. Unfortunately, I have someone whom I dedicated both my mind and body, so I can't let you catch me.” (Emilia)

“There is no other way then. Let's do it quickly.” (??)

“By the way, is this alright? I mean for you to be this careless.” (Emilia)

“What are—... Uooh!?” (??)

At that moment, the [Air Impact] prepared by Emilia, burst behind the men. They were blown away from their backs by the shock of furious wind.

Emilia calmly avoided the men who flew at tremendous momentum. When I noticed, the rope was held in her hand. It looked like she snatched it from the guy who passed

her just now.

In no time, Emilia started running, and she quickly made a round trip between the two men who hadn't regained their postures...

"This is also etiquette as an attendant." (Emilia)

She splendidly tied the legs and arms and completely sealed the movement of the two.

They were unintentionally groaning in spite of the good performance. I wondered if I should think about the preference of rope work as a follower.

"That's the end. Sirius-sama. I'm done." (Emilia)

"...Good job." (Sirius)

Emilia, who was aware of my presence, slowly came to me after make them fainted by using magic.

She had a serious look because there were still enemies remained, but since her tail was grandly wagging as if asking for praise, I stroked her head. I knew that we were in time of emergency, but since Emilia was wagging her tail, I had to stroke her.

"Ehehe... Well then, Sirius-sama. I'll be on alert." (Emilia)

"I leave it to you. Later, Hokuto is..." (Sirius)

"Woof..." (Hokuto)

Hokuto, who was waiting near the carriage, appeared at the same time Emilia returned to the top of the roof.

Actually, there were three reactions near Hokuto, but now, they were fainted and being held in Hokuto's mouth. The sight where all four limbs hanged down and collectively carried by the collars was surreal.

"Woof!" (Hokuto)

"Hokuto too, good job. Hmm... these people seem to be different." (Sirius)

The three people were thrown to the ground as if they were casted away. They seemed to be the same bunch who Emilia had tied up a while ago.

After stroking Hokuto's head, I did check on them, and again these three were different than the one I was looking for.

"Well, let's keep them together in one place." (Sirius)

"Woof!" (Hokuto)

It seemed that the place that was slightly away was his favorite.

Since the time had passed after these people came, it wouldn't be strange if they started moving. So, we better hurried up.

I gave Hokuto additional instruction and then, I hid again in the dark of the night.

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"...Are they coming?" (??)

"No. Still nothing..." (??)

I moved as to make a great detour while hiding my figure, and then I caught the backs of the three people who were my objective.

Beyond the line of sight, it was the windows of the room that we booked for Karen and the ladies. At this time, they were observing Reese and Fia who were in the room while Karen was soundly asleep.

When I listened to their conversation while hiding behind a tree a bit away from them, it looked like they started to feel strange because there was no contact from the companions who headed to other spots.

"...That's strange. Shall we withdraw at once?" (??)

"But, the diversion from the front seems to be a success, so if we attack in one go..." (??)

"No... I'm still concern because there is no contact yet. Someone, please check the back

door" (??)

"I'm going." (??)

It seemed there was no mistake. The man, who sounded like a leader and gave instructions to the comrades nearby, was the one who I was looking for.

I could obtain information if I caught him. Then, I had decided to do it in one go. The timing was when one of them went out for reconnaissance.

Aiming for the nearest man, I stepped slowly from behind, and...

"...Wha- ... guhaa!?" (??)

"What's wro-...!?" (??)

"Don't move!" (Sirius)

While closing his mouth, I hit him to the ground from his back and made him fainted. The leader turned around to the noise but I stuck my mithril knife to his neck.

He was also holding a knife at the same time as the noise, but it seemed that he was surprised since I was faster.

"...What a splendid technique." (??)

"Thanks. Just to be sure, I'm going to ask you this. Are you aiming at that winged girl?" (Sirius)

"I will tell you, but I don't feel good about being held down. My men are still hiding in the surroundings, you know?" (??)

"That's too bad. I have noticed all of them and they are mostly neutralized. It's your lose." (Sirius)

Emilia or Hokuto would capture the one who went out just now, and Reus would probably finish his side soon.

When I told him the details where they were heading and the number of his men, the leader put down his knife and raised his hands to surrender.

“Haa... what a troublesome bunch from one after another. What is really going on?”
(??)

“I don’t care if you want to complain, but will you not answer my question?” (Sirius)

“...Yes, you are right. I was asked to kidnap the winged girl that you bring into custody by the merchant name Aseed. The men should be killed while the women should be brought back.” (??)

After questioning him for several times, it seemed that he was unwilling to receive the request in the first place.

Even if they would be given money as reward, they knew in advance that we had a clearly strong Beast Companion, Hokuto. Anyhow, Hokuto was really stood out. Even if he wasn’t a beastkin, it felt worse to turn him to be an enemy.

However, he couldn’t refuse after Aseed let out the name of Obelisk. Hence, he was unwillingly accepted the request.

“I have heard the rumor... about the lord of Obelisk is collecting rare tribes. In order to obtain them, foul methods are commonly used. I want to avoid from getting the attention of that country. Because of that, I thought that it would be easier if I completed the request.” (??)

“Don’t you think it’s better to take care of that man in this town?” (Sirius)

“Of course, I have thought about it. However, the escorts that he brought are well known people with skills. With our war capabilities, it is difficult to get rid of them without losing our own people.” (??)

As he hesitated, Aseed proposed to hire adventurers as a diversion, and since we were young, he thought that we should have some openings.

The most powerful was Hokuto, but they didn’t really need to fight the Beast Companion. It seemed that they thought it was possible by giving him food.

“That mean those who were caught by Hokuto was because of that?”

Since the ecology of Hundred Wolves wasn’t sufficiently known, I wondered what kind of face they would make if they knew Hokuto wasn’t interested in food.

“When we came here while thinking such things, we were done one-sidedly. Good grief... no matter what we choose, the ending is bad.” (??)

He made a face that completely had given up maybe because he thought that he was let alive for me to obtain information.

Well, whether he chose me or Aseed, there was nothing else to be other than the demise ending. In other words, they were a pitiful bunch.

“How far your men talked about us?” (Sirius)

“...There’s nothing but to kidnap the girl. Say, you are a good man because you helped the child, right? I don’t mind about my life, but can you at least spare my subordinates?” (??)

“Are you alright with that?” (Sirius)

“We are no less than an organization, so it’s no good if no one takes responsibility. If you allow me to be killed here or sacrificing others, I’m thinking of choosing to die.” (??)

“It’s troubling if your subordinates hate me if you die or run away, huh.” (Sirius)

“There are no fools among my subordinates that would endanger the organization for revenge or something. If you give me the time, I will tell them that. And if they complain, I will take care of them with my own hands.” (??)

‘Is he a man loyal to his organization?’

Although this was the first meeting, this man with such a strong sense of responsibility seemed to be more reliable than Aseed.

“I have one proposal, but it’s just a talk. Do you want to hear it?” (Sirius)

“What is it?” (??)

“If you cooperate with us, let alone of dealing with Aseed, I will also give you money. In exchange, say nothing about us or Obelisk.” (Sirius)

“...Alright. I also don’t want to get involved with that country. I promise I will not tell

others about you guys. Anyhow, I have no right to choose since I lost to you." (??)

I had decided to have a temporary cooperation with that man.

After that, I discussed on how to deal with his subordinates, and we were going to keep them as hostages until the end of this situation.

Originally, it wouldn't be strange even if he was killed. More than anything, since the relationship between me and this man was due to agreement of interest, it was slightly different than completely trusting him.

"Let's end this tonight. I'm going to move soon." (Sirius)

"Got it. Nevertheless, far from relying on the enemies who came to kill you, you also got involved. If this is normal, I think I am crazy." (??)

"Well, I understand that he is not an upright man. Besides, it is not necessary to think hard of it. Since he caused trouble, it is just a matter of tit for tat." (Sirius)

At first, I planned to go alone.

But, there was advantages to have this man here. After seeing the sense of responsibility, I judged that there was no loss in collaborating with him.

"Let alone telling lies to us, they sent assassins. Shall I remind him of the position being targeted by predators that doesn't bother the support of a country?" (Sirius)

"...I really don't want to fight you again." (??)

I wasn't sure if they aimed for Karen who we found, but if Fia and Emilia who were not related, were being targeted, it made me a bit angry.

That leader-like man pulled back because of my anger, but that was a small matter.

'Well then, let's finish this.'

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Leaving the inn to the siblings and Hokuto, I came to the inn where Aseed stayed with the guide of the man.

It seemed to be the biggest inn in this town. Apparently, he was staying in a separate house inside the premise like the inn where we stayed in Arbitray.

“Since it is a building built to enjoy prostitutes and women without worrying, it become an unspoken rule not to mind even if there is some noise. Especially, if the scream of women who are forcibly kidnapped leaked out...” (??)

“Preferences are varied for different people, so is it necessary for such a room...” (Sirius)

I could easily imagine what Aseed was thinking of booking that room.

“On the other hand, there is no need to worry if I make some noise.” (Sirius)

“Yeah. I will report to him.” (??)

“Yes, after that, it will be according to our arrangement.” (Sirius)

Then, I infiltrated from another route at the same time as the man entered the building from the front. Next, I came to the next room where those guys were.

According the information heard beforehand, the escorts were siblings who seemed to be senior adventurers, and they were quite strong.

However, on top of everyone having alcohol, Aseed was irritated and knocked the table and the floor. As that created noises, I was able to infiltrate without being noticed.

I confirmed the siblings while listening to the conversation from the gap of the wall. The older brother, Mad, was the man who was laughing in a good mood while chugging down the alcohol, and the younger brother, Dora, was continuously and wholeheartedly eating dishes.

As discussed earlier, the man reported that the request was successful by using the things I gave him, and he left the place after receiving the rewards.

They were convinced the success by looking at the bag which the wings were visible. In the meantime, I sneaked into the room while they were completely lack of vigilance.

“I was wondering what would happen on the way, but isn’t good since we got the Elf? With that, we can live in luxury for a while.” (Aseed)

“Say, the Elf wasn’t in our plan, right? There’s no problem when we have her, right?”
(Mad)

“It’s my first time to get an Elf.” (Dora)

‘...As expected, he doesn’t want to keep to his promise.’

If we escaped from the city without handing Karen, they would surely report to Obelisk and it would become a threat to us.

‘It seems that they are also aiming at my precious Fia, so I definitely have to take care of them right here.’

“That bastard, if you opened the door, close it-...” (Aseed)

“Don’t move!” (Mad)

Apparently, they noticed my presence, but I didn’t need to hide anymore since I already knew their true attention.

After avoiding the knife that Mad stabbed, I brazenly exposed myself in front of Aseed.

“I’ve heard everything.” (Sirius)

It might be because I suddenly appeared even though they thought that I was supposed taken care off, he stood with his eyes wide opened.

On the other hand, the escorts or the siblings were calmly wary of me, but since I didn’t have to hear from them in particular, I started running to gain total control in a go.

“Heh! Are you trying to challenge us alone!?” (Mad)

First off, I approached Mad since he was closer, but whether he could see my movement, he stabbed a knife at my face.

I avoided the knife by tilting my head, but since he immediately swung the knife to the opposite direction, I retracted my body and took a distance.

“What’s wrong!? Are you going to run away after coming to me?” (Mad)

Indeed... I guessed the leader-like man hesitated to lend help because of this.

In terms of knife technique, his skill was among the best that I had seen so far.

There was no mistake that he had strength equivalent to senior adventurers, but...

“That was nothing but straightforward movement. I think that it is too soon to be satisfied with that ability, right?” (Sirius)

I had already seen all of Mad’s tendency and movement.

His knife technique was surely brilliant, but I was brought up fighting the existence that held the best technique.

Needless to say, that was Shishou. The moment I saw her knife approaching like a live serpent, I thought that it was really terrifying.

“Don’t say such an insolent. My knife saw everything—... guh!?” (Mad)

This time, the assault came from Mad, but I twisted his wrist faster than his incoming stabbed knife, and I snatched the knife at the moment his grip strength got loose.

Even while agitated, Mad swung the other knife, I forcibly stopped his arm with my elbow and pushed the knife that I snatched toward his neck.

If that was the case, he had no choice to step back or to avoid it by tilting the head, but... it seemed he chose to step back.

I stepped forward to pursue Mad and threw him off on the floor by using his momentum of stepping back.

“Anija! How dare you... gahh!” (Dora) (TLN: *Anija* = *Aniki*)

As I robbed Mad’s consciousness by kicking and throwing him on the ground at the same time, Dora, who was a step late, shook down his fist from behind.

That was a blow that could slightly break the bones if I got hit, but I bent over and avoided it, then I drove my elbow into Dora’s solar plexus. I continued rotating on the spot while sweeping his feet. After that, I reaped his consciousness by launching my palm toward his chin.

His body seemed study as he was bigger than Reus, but as I expected, he couldn't bear if the vital points were continuously being struck.

“Wh-why are you here!? You are supposed to be dealt with...” (Aseed)

“If you have something to say... say it.” (Sirius)

Finally, I lightly chuckled at Aseed who was stunned because his escorts were defeated.

“Y-you... do you think you can get away by doing this!?” (Aseed)

“Shouldn't you understand that it is useless to say that in this situation? I already know your true intention, so isn't better to be prepare for this?” (Sirius)

“Bastard. What...” (Aseed)

Aseed was afraid by my smile, but even so, he was desperately looking around the surroundings.

After seeing the bag with a part of wings protruded, he jumped at it while smiling.

“Don't move! I have the hostage here- ...” (Aseed)

However, Aseed felt something strange about the sensation coming from the bag. When he opened the bag, a cushion filled with superficial wings was put inside it.

He was wonderfully deceived until that much. Well, he was quite drunk because of alcohol.

Finally, as I began to let out a dry laughter, I threw the knife I snatched into his foot.

“Guhhaa!? S-stop it! If it's life...” (Aseed)

“Oh yes... there are things I want you to tell me.” (Sirius)

Subsequently, I decided to gather information of Obelisk and the place where Karen was found. If he had prepared for this, he shouldn't have to worry.

However, Obelisk had many secrets and I wasn't able to get much information, but

since it turned out that the upstream of the river where Karen was found was closed to the Dragon's Nest, the credibility had increased that there was winged people's settlement.

After that, when I finished listening to a certain extent, Aseed was abruptly trembling bit by bit and he reached out to appeal.

"Is... isn't that... good enough? My body is numb... please..." (Aseed)

"I was thinking that something was put on the knife, and apparently, it was a paralysis poison. Will you die if I don't do anything?" (Sirius)

"I can't move... that's it. Please... the antidote... that guy has it..." (Aseed)

"It is not a problem since it is not a lethal poison. Besides, if you learn your lesson, don't do such a thing again. You were too proud having a supporter, and it was bad for you because you neglect the intuition to sniff danger." (Sirius)

"Guh... uu..." (Aseed)

In the end, I left Aseed as it was and left the building.

I was planning to leave the matter to the leader-like man, who was waiting outside, since he was someone who lived in this town, but... I noticed something midway and I decided to change the plan.

That was because although those people would be killed, there were more suitable opponents for that who had gotten closer.

I joined the leader-like man who was hiding outside, and when I explained as to wait for the opportunity... they came.

"Haa... haa... Damn... it... I will absolutely... not forgive them!" (??)

They were the men who survived and they were called garbage by Aseed.

With body covered in blood and their appearance bent as if one arm and one leg were crushed by something, they were in state beyond help.

Nevertheless, they were moving because of grudge.

They would probably die in less than an hour, but it was good enough to kill Aseed, who couldn't move for a while.

And then...

{That... brat. This humiliation... I won't forget it! I will definitely... make him regret—... who's that!?) (Aseed)}

{Oi... Old man!} (??)

{Y-you!?) (Aseed)}

{How dare... you do this to us! You... to crush my arm... just like that... } (??)

After confirming that the four reactions remaining in the building disappeared, I quietly left the place.

◊ ◊ ◊

Extra/Bonus – A small joke material that only some can understand.

“Don’t say such an insolent. My knife saw everything—... guh!?” (Mad)

This time, the assault came from Mad, but I twisted his wrist faster than his incoming stabbed knife, and I snatched the knife at the moment his grip strength got loose.

Even while agitated, Mad swung the other knife, I forcibly stopped his arm with my elbow and pushed the knife that I snatched toward his neck.

If that was the case, he had no choice to step back or to avoid it by tilting the head, but... it seemed he chose to step back.

I stepped forward to pursue Mad and...

“Revolutionary warrior... lariat!” (Sirius)

“Ooh! That is a collusion! The opponent is sank on the mat by Aniki’s blow!” (Reus)

“—!?” (Isabella)

“Okaa-san, you don’t have to get up from the chair with such momentum...” (Mary)

“Aah... ahhh...” (Keith)

◊ ◊ ◊

Extra/Bonus – The taste of the disciples

In a conversation after this incident was over...

“By the way, Emilia. What kind of taste you have for the rope work?” (Sirius)

“I heard from a prostitute the other that day some people in this world are excited to see woman tied up. So, in preparation for the future when Sirius-sama awake that tendency, I am honing the technique of rope.” (Emilia)

“I’m not sure where did you get that, but there is no meaning if I’m not into it, right?” (Sirius)

“This also correspond to the opposite situation. Sirius-sama, I can accommodate either way... ehehe...” (Emilia)

Since it was moving forward to somewhat unpleasant direction, I stroked Emilia’s head to diverge her attention.

However, rope work was useful in many ways, so I guessed I could allow her to polish that technique.

◊ ◊ ◊

Hokuto in the midnight – Act 1

In the midnight... Hokuto stayed in the inn’s warehouse where the carriage was stored.

The possibility of an attack was high for tonight, and since the Master said that there was a suspicious person, Hokuto was lying down while honing his senses.

And when the front side of the inn was getting noisy...

“...Woof.” (Hokuto)

Hokuto-kun caught three signs approaching the warehouse.

Initially, Hokuto-kun wanted to secretly sneak up so as not to make a noise, but even if he hid, he stood out because he had splendid fur that shone white.

He stood out especially in the night, so this time, he decided to wait on the spot to welcome them.

“Is it here?” (??)

“This place is not only for carriage, so it should be here. But, is it really fine?” (??)

“If it pulls a carriage, it should be familiar with people. It will not attack us if we don’t attack it.” (??)

When Hokuto-kun was considering whether to make a surprise attack while hiding, the other side entered the warehouse openly.

And then, Hokuto-kun, who was sitting in front of the carriage, met the eyes of the intruders.

“Ooh... it’s amazing to see it at close distance. It makes you want to hug it, right?” (??)

“It is impossible to confine it. Do you think you can win if you attacked it?” (??)

“Well, no matter how big the wolf is, it is still a monster. Hey... this is delicious, you know? You can eat it if you want.” (??)

After that, one of the men took out a lump of meat and put it in front of Hokuto-kun.

However, since Hokuto-kun only had to absorb the mana in the air, he basically didn’t require meals. If he ate meals, it was only by the Master’s hands.

“...It doesn’t eat the meat. Is it not hungry?” (??)

“It is really a splendid wolf. Perhaps, he only eats something of high quality.” (??)

“Well, this is the better one. Damn it... if he didn’t eat that, I was going to eat it.” (??)

Since an obviously good quality meat was placed this time, Hokuto-kun looked at it curiously.

“Ooh, it is looking at the meat.” (??)

“Alright, don’t hesitate to eat it! Just so you know, there is another one.” (??)

At that time, Hokuto-kun thought... if he gave the meat to the Master, would he be happy?

“...It doesn’t eat it.” (??)

“It seems it was brought up well by its master. It can’t be helped then. Next is... guaaaa!” (??)

“Wh-why are you suddenly... aah!?” (??)

“It’s paw... guuhuu!?” (??)

Well, there were many things going on, but since they were enemies, Hokuto-kun decided to neutralize them.

He crushed them one after another with paw punch, and since there was no other reactions coming closer, he decided to bring them to the Master.

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

Hokuto-kun skillfully held three people in his mouth. While imagining the Master would praise him, he went out of the warehouse while wagging the tail.

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Hokuto in the midnight – Act 2

The Little Devil, Hokuto.

In the scene where the three men put meat in front of Hokuto-kun...

“Woof...” (Hokuto)

“Ooh, look. Its tail is wagging.” (??)

“Its appearance is scary, but isn’t it cute when you look at it?” (??)

“Good boy, come here. I will feed you more.” (??)

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

“““Gyaa!“““ (??)

‘What a fool, you got caught!’

...as if Hokuto-kun wanted to say that, he leaped into the opponent’s chest and disabled them in a blink of an eye.

“...Woof.” (Hokuto)

‘Battle is callous’...as if he wanted to say that, he gave a light bark in front of three dead (stunned) bodies.

As a faithful dog... he will never wag his tail other than for his Master.

He wagged his tail to put the enemy off guard, but for his Master... what a little devil Hokuto.

Chapter 135

The Second Person of...

Early in the morning of the next day as the problem with Aseed had settled, I was cooking breakfast on the cooktop installed in the carriage.

It was alright if we ordered for breakfast at the inn, but since there were various things happening yesterday, I felt like having a change of mood.

Brushing was done earlier, and I continued cooking while watching Hokuto wagging the tail in good mood. Emilia and Reese, then, came to the carriage and we had morning greetings.

“We came to this place, isn’t it?” (Emilia)

“What are you making? Aah, that ingredient... could it be...” (Reese)

“Yeah, it’s for Karen.” (Sirius)

I wasn’t only preparing sandwiches for breakfast, but I was also baking a cake.

It would be somewhat similar to the French Toast prepared for yesterday, but since there were many things different, they wouldn’t get tired of it.

“It might be sneaky to lure with food, but I want her to get used to it soon.” (Sirius)

“Hehe... I can imagine Karen-chan’s reaction when she eats the cake.” (Emilia)

“In my case, I was fed by Sirius-san’s cake by chance.” (Reese)

“Don’t put it in bad way, you know.” (Sirius)

Since Reese ate it and seemed enjoying the taste, there was a mysterious charm that came along together with the pleasure of cooking.

That was why, I could still remember even now the time I first met her at school, that

I was charmed by the smile that she showed at the Diamond cottage.

“Put the dough in the oven, and... Shall we finish preparing the sandwiches in the meantime?” (Sirius)

“I will cut the vegetables.” (Emilia)

“I’ll prepare the bread.” (Reese)

Because of the vitality in the morning, we spread the work and prepared large quantities of sandwiches.

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After the breakfast was completed, we gathered in the room of ladies which was a quadruple room and had it.

The sandwiches that were prepared in large quantities, had disappeared one by one, and since Reus frequently yawned and stopped his hand, that looked slightly exhausting.

“Phuaa... so sleepy.” (Reus)

“...Kuu...” (Karen)

“Here, Karen. Get up properly and eat it.” (Fia)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

Last night, Reus fought adventurers and he had to move around a lot.

Because of that, he was quite agitated and didn’t have a good sleep. Furthermore, since the time to go to bed was later than usual, it was simple a sleep deprivation.

‘By the way... Why Karen is sleepy?’

That girl slept earlier than any of us, but she woke up last this morning. She easily slept for nearly half a day.

“If you are sleepy, how about going to sleep while we are on the move?” (Sirius)

“That is true. As for the vibration of the carriage, it’s still pretty comfortable to sleep.”
(Fia)

Since the suspension absorbed vibration to a certain extent, as long as the trip wasn’t extremely rough, she should be able to sleep well. But still, I hadn’t think that it reach the level of comfortable.

It might be because I was affected by Reus, I was also yawning. Reese and Fia were bitterly smiling while they noticed me.

“I guess Sirius-san also is still sleepy, isn’t it? If it so, you can actually leave the breakfast to us.” (Reese)

“We are fine because we only slept a bit late, but Sirius slept pretty late, right?” (Fia)

After confirming the ending of Aseed and the rest, I couldn’t return to the inn at once because I had discussions with the leader-like man about the cleaning up. So, I informed them through [Call] that I would be late and didn’t mind sleeping first.

Then, I finished various works and returned to the inn. Let alone the day already changed, the outside began to be indistinctly lit up.

I took a nap for a while, but it was true that I didn’t have enough sleep.

“Yeah, but that was why I will sleep in the carriage. No, it seems no good to call it a sleep.” (Sirius)

“Yes! It’s a promise.” (Emilia)

When I said that I was ready, Emilia was replying while wagging the tail.

Last night... when I told everyone to sleep first, Emilia was the only one who said that as an attendant, she couldn’t sleep until the Master returned.

And the promise that I told if she went to sleep first was...

“When I got up, you immediately wiped and cleaned my body. Please tell me to do that at any time.” (Emilia)

“...Do you really like me having your lap pillow that much?” (Sirius)

“It’s my pleasure to have Sirius-sama, especially the lap pillow is rarely permitted for me.” (Emilia)

“Is that so? If it’s lap pillow, I remember having you do that for me for several times...” (Sirius)

“Since Emilia is the person who know the most about Sirius-san, I think that it isn’t a mistake.” (Reese)

“Well. In your case, instead of having your lap pillow, we want to you to have our lap pillow. That’s because I don’t remember giving mine to Sirius.” (Fia)

...If it was said in that way, I guessed they were right.

It wasn’t like I had a dislike about it. When I was young. the pleasantness of the lap pillow that Kaa-san gave me in that flower garden was memories of my life.

And in my case, if there was anything, Hokuto would immediately came to me and became a cushion and a pillow.

“Yes, let’s massage our thighs later. That way it will soften a little, right?” (Emilia)

“Let me tell you. You don’t have to do it that far.” (Sirius)

Since the sandwiches were finished by the time I stroked Emilia’s head so that she stopped acting rashly, I took the main dish which was a cake this time.

While everyone was pleased with the appearance of the cake, only Karen had a first look of staring the cake while tilting the head.

“...What is this? Bread?” (Karen)

“That is a cake. It is a sweet confections like the French Toast you ate yesterday. Sirius made it for Karen.” (Fia)

“...Is it sweeter than honey?” (Karen)

“It is not only sweet, it’s fluffy and delicious. Anyway, just try it even a little. I’m sure Karen-chan will like it.” (Reese)

Reese's and Fia's recommendations seemed to raise Karen's interest and her sight was nailed to the cake.

Then, Emilia sliced the cake and handed it out to everyone. Karen, who saw how everyone delightedly enjoying the cake, put the cake into her mouth as if she had made the decision, and...

“...It’s delicious.” (Karen)

Her mouth changed to a smile while moving her wings.

“More importantly, her feelings match with the mouth.” (Fia)

“If it’s Sirius-sama’s cake, that is a matter of course, right?” (Emilia)

“Yeah, I’ve eaten it dozens of times but I never get bored of it.” (Reese)

While noticing certain reactions, Fia, who was sitting next to me, was listening while wiping off the cream on Karen’s mouth.

“How is it, Karen? Is the cake delicious?” (Fia)

“Yeah! But... I like honey more.” (Karen)

“...” (Sirius/Emilia/Reese)

It looked like she prefer the sweetness of honey rather than the sweetness of the cake.

I knew it couldn’t be helped since preferences varied from person to person, but there was no need to indulge it if she said it clearly. I guessed... natural goods were still better, huh.

“That’s terrible, Nee-chan! Aniki is depressed!” (Reus)

“Kuh... I don’t want to make Karen-chan as the reason, but I am Sirius-sama’s disciple. For the sake of my Master— ...” (Emilia)

“Wait, wait. I’m not really depressed. By the way, Emilia. Whatever it is, I know what you want to do but you absolutely can’t do that, alright?” (Sirius)

“...Understood.” (Emilia)

It was probably some kind of brainwashing, but I wondered why she looked so sorry.

Well, it wasn't like anybody talked bad, and there was no problem since Karen enjoyed eating the cake.

‘Should make sweets made with honey next time?’

Anyhow, in order to deepen the relationship with Karen, there was nothing could be done other than steadily working on it.

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“Sirius-san, do you have time?” (Reese)

“Yeah, what is it?” (Sirius)

After that, while I was cleaning up the breakfast, Reese came and spoke to me. When I turned around, there was Karen stood hiding behind Reese.

She didn't leave Fia's side until yesterday, but it seemed that she had gotten used to the ladies.

“Actually, I heard this from Karen-chan. Come, be brave and say it.” (Reese)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

The scene of her getting along with Reese was very pleasing, but since she had something for me, I went down on one knee, looked at her eyes, and waited for Karen.

“You see... I would like you to teach me magic.” (Karen) (*TLN: She calls herself by using own name. I think some children/people do that with their families and close friends.*)

“Magic?” (Sirius)

“In Karen-chan's hometown, it looks like they start practicing magic from five years old.” (Reese)

“Since winged people have lighter body, they don't fight too much like a warrior and

they are focusing on magic." (Fia)

"But, it's amazing for them to start doing it since five years old. At that time, I was still behaving like a spoiled child to my mother." (Reese)

Karen's explanation was very vague maybe because she was scared at me, but Reese and Fia, who had listened to her in advance added up the information in some places. Hence, I could understand the situation in general.

It was roughly summarized as follows.

The winged people seemed to begin practicing magic five years after they were born. Karen's age had reached five years a month ago and she had been taught magic by the parents.

However, no matter how many times Karen tried it, let alone beginner level, her magic talent couldn't be seen at all.

"Okaa-san laughed saying it was alright and said that I could do it someday, but she was a bit worried. That's why... I want to surprise Okaa-san... by using magic like Oneechans." (Karen)

"So you want to me teach you magic, is it?" (Sirius)

This morning, it looked like she had seen Reese produced water to wash the face.

The winged people seemed to be suitable for magic as a whole. The feeling I had when listening to Karen's talk, they seemed to be able to use beginner level magic after practicing for few days. Even a child could also do that.

That was the fact, but Karen was the only person who couldn't use magic.

Furthermore, Karen's wings were obviously different in shape compared with other winged people, so there was a high possibility that she would completely being left out by the winged people.

Even so... that might be because she had her mother, but it was truly wonderful looking at her wanting to learn magic in such a state without giving up.

For that reason, I didn't mind teaching her magic, but since she still hadn't trust me

yet, I thought Reese and Fia should teach her.

I tried to tell that with my eyes, but Fia and Reese merely closed one of their eyes.

“It’s just that we have been thought magic by Sirius-san, so I think you should say something about it...” (Reese)

“Besides you are the leader of this party. Aren’t you the person who should teach and inform exactly?” (Fia)

“In terms of teaching, I think Sirius-sama is the best. If so, Karen-chan is surely will be someone like us.” (Emilia)

‘I see... that was it, huh.’

There would also be information, but Karen could get used to me if I taught her.

To tell the truth, they probably wanted to teach her themselves, but they were still giving away this valuable opportunity.

‘Let’s just accept their feelings.’

While I was considering, Karen was keep waiting anxiously. Then, I slowly held out my hand and put up a smile.

“It’s fine. If you don’t mind with me, I will teach you. But before that, I have something I want to check. May I touch your hand?” (Sirius)

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

I was concern about Karen’s aptitude attribute, but it was difficult to know unless she was examined with a specialized magic tool.

I thought about checking the movement of mana first. Then, I touched Karen’s small hand and tried to use [Scan].

“By the way, does Karen understand about mana?” (Sirius)

“Uhmm... mana is something that hazy feeling in the body... right?” (Karen)

It was an ambiguous expression, but she understood about mana.

Subsequently, I instructed her to concentrate so that she could use magic, and when I [Scan]ned the movement of the mana...

“There is no mistake that mana seems to circulate in the body well, but...” (Sirius)

“If it so, why she can’t use magic?” (Emilia)

“This feeling... No, I should definitely check this out.” (Sirius)

There was only one possibility, but since there was no precedent, I couldn’t confirm it.

Since I was going to teach her magic while on the move, I planned to leave the town as soon as I left the inn, but... apparently there seemed to be another place that I should go.

Karen looked like almost crying since she felt the unsettled mood, but I smiled and told everyone that there was no problem.

“Before departure, we’re going to the adventurer guild first.” (Sirius)

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“Well then, Sirius-sama. That is thanks to the rare materials yesterday. So, are we going to get any request today?” (Receptionist)

“No. Today, there are things I would like to ask instead of doing requests...” (Sirius)

We left the inn and came to the adventurer guild. Then, we asked the receptionist to use a magic tool to determine the magic aptitude attribute.

However, since that magic tool was rarely used other than during the registration to the guild, she wondered soon why I asked for it.

“We are not using it for ourselves, but for this girl. I am planning to teach her magic, so I want to determine the aptitude attribute early.” (Sirius)

“...Is that girl your child, Sirius-sama?” (Receptionist)

“Actually... I’m taking care of this girl for my brother’s sake, and now we are traveling together. Well, she is like our sister.” (Sirius)

“Sorry about that. But, the guild has to know about it...” (Receptionist)

Karen was suspecting my lies, but she was scared by the atmosphere of the guild where adventurers gathered. However, it seemed that the receptionist believed when looking at the appearance of how close Karen clinging behind Fia.

At first, I thought of telling her that she was my child, but it was a bit impossible for me to have a child with my young appearance.

“Well then, please wait a moment. We will prepare the tool.” (Receptionist)

“...What are we doing here?” (Reese)

“As you know, magic has different attributes such as fire and water. It is good if we can examine Karen’s attribute.” (Sirius)

“The aptitude attributes are different for people. If we know what is Karen-chan’s attribute, I think she can use magic sooner or later.” (Emilia)

“Really?” (Karen)

The explanation was given during the time when the magic tool was being prepared, and Karen’s eyes began to glitter.

It was nice to be pleased, but since the robe hiding the wings was moving like wiggling, it was something that I wanted her to be careful as much as possible.

The preparation ended as I smiled at Karen. Then, a magical tool with a transparent stone was placed in front of us.

“Well then, please put your hands on this stone.

“...Yeah.” (Karen)

Right now, rather than feeling scared, the feeling of curiosity was probably bigger. Karen extended her hands toward the stone without displaying the air of confusion.

The shape of the tool was slightly different from the one that we used during registration, but its mechanism that shone according to the attribute of the person who touched was still similar. If it was red color, then it was fire attribute and if it was blue, it would be water attribute.

I was concerned about Karen's aptitude attribute, but if it was as I expected, it shouldn't be seen by the surroundings. As I had an advanced meeting with the siblings, they were surrounding the tool so that the light of the stone couldn't be seen.

And the stone began to shine...

"Aah... it shone!" (Reus)

"That is..." (Emilia)

"...As I expected." (Sirius)

The color of the light was... colorless.

In other words, Karen's aptitude attribute was... non-attribute like me.

"Look, look. It's beautiful, Onee-chan." (Karen)

"Yes. It is very beautiful." (Fia)

"Yes. You're... right." (Karen)

"...It's a pure color like Karen." (Fia)

While everyone had a complex emotion on that reality, Karen was the only one who was fascinated by the glow of the magic tool.

The receptionist also was wondering what should she said, and she was completely harden.

It wasn't like I didn't expect this result.

However, I had never met any non-attribute other than me until now. It was probably because the possibility of such an attribute was extremely small and it was hard to understand, but from the color of the light, Karen seemed to be non-attribute.

It was very difficult for me to use beginner magic of four attributes even now, so Karen might also unable to use magic well.

Karen was wondering when I turned off the function of the magic tool as I wedged myself from the side, but since she didn't understand the meaning of the color, she asked innocently.

“Say, Onee-chan, what kind of magic Karen is good at? Will it be the same like Okaa-san?” (Karen)

“Uhmm, Karen’s magic is...” (Fia)

“I’ll take over, Fia. I think I should tell her here.” (Sirius)

“...What do you mean?” (Karen)

“Listen to me, Karen. The magic that you are good at is...” (Sirius)

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After that, we departed from the town and traveled by the carriage toward the dragon’s nest where the settlement of winged people was.

When we found Karen, the speed of the carriage was lowered so as not to scare her. But now, the speed was at the normal speed, so we would arrive at the dragon’s nest in two days maximum.

But... the mood inside the carriage was a bit heavy now.

Karen, who knew that she was non attribute, was sitting down behind the carriage with hanging head. I also noticed that her wings were somewhat hanging.

“As I expected, even winged people also don’t think well about non-attribute.” (Emilia)

“Karen-chan... she was expecting, right?” (Reese)

Even if the mechanism of the magic tool wasn’t known, the fact about the non-attribute was common to the whole world.

The shock seemed to be big as she was looking forward to surprise her mother since

she would get taught about magic by us.

Originally, I planned to take a nap in the carriage, but I couldn't afford to sleep and left Karen now. So, we kept watching her quietly.

After a while the carriage departed from the town, Reus moved it to the place where there was no sign of people around.

“...Okaa-san.” (Karen)

“Look here. Cheer up, Karen. Non-attribute is not a bad thing, you know?” (Reus)

Whether it was thanks to Reus who came closer while carefully taking distance, Karen didn't show the sign to slip away even though Reus called her out. Or it might be because she was too depressed.

His words probably was the cue since Karen was looking at him while shedding large tears.

“But, Okaa-san said that... the child with no attribute can't use magic well. Why... me...?” (Karen)

“Is that so? You know, I'm quite jealous to those with non-attribute.” (Reus)

“...Why?” (Karen)

“Well, my respected Aniki is also non-attribute.” (Reus)

“Eh!?” (Karen)

Karen was taken aback by Reus' worry-not-smile, but when she realized the meaning of the words, she looked at me while spreading her wings.

I couldn't explain in the guild because there were surrounding people, but it didn't matter now since we were here.

“Yes, I am also without attribute like Karen. Hokuto.” (Sirius)

“Woof!” (Hokuto)

Hokuto, who understood my intention even without being told, moved to the grassland that was a bit away from the main road and stopped the carriage.

Karen was wondering as she get off the carriage, but since she was urged by Fia, she followed us.

“What are we going to do here?” (Karen)

“As promised, I’m thinking of teaching magic to Karen. It’s probably good enough to this extent.” (Sirius)

“But, I have no attribute...” (Karen)

“It’s alright. I’m going to teach you non-attribute magic. If Karen and I are similar, you will be able to use it if you practice.” (Sirius)

“Everyone said... that there was no need to learn non-attribute magic, you know?” (Karen)

“That’s not it. Everything changes greatly depending on the usage and way of thinking. Well, it would be easy to understand if there is a comparison target.” (Sirius)

In terms of evidence, it would be faster to demonstrate it.

The siblings, who received the cue by my gaze, nodded. They concentrated mana on the palms and unleashed magic.

“I am using Wind Magic. [Wind].” (Emilia)

“I told you earlier. My attribute is fire. Look, Karen. [Flame].” (Reus)

“...Eh?” (Karen)

The magical wind unleashed by Emilia rocked the surrounding trees greatly. Subsequently, Reus’ fireball crushed the rock nearby.

Seeing the magic of the siblings, Karen looked interestedly, but she noticed a certain point and asked questions.

“Okaa-san said that before magic, uhmm... magic can’t be used unless there is an

incantation, but Onee-chan and Onii-chan can do it without chanting?" (Karen)

"That's right. We can do magic without incantation because we were taught by Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"Of course, I can do that too. You may be half asleep, but I didn't use incantation when producing water to wash my face, right?" (Reese)

"Aah, yes. Then..." (Karen)

"Yes, I also can do it without incantation. In my case, it's a bit special..." (Fia)

Even if we don't know magic, we can use it. Karen will surely able to do it." (Reus)

I judged that she noticed how wonderful to cast magic without chanting, but now, it would be magic comparison.

Karen was excited when she was told that she could do it, but she became depressed again remembering about non-attribute, so I called her with a serious expression.

"Listen to me, Karen. Look carefully. The possibility of non-attribute magic... No, this is just one of the possibilities. [Impact]." (Sirius)

The objective was a rock that many times larger than the one Reus broke.

The impact bullet released from my hand easily crushed the rock and it created a large hole in the center. Honestly, I could destroy the entire rock, but I wanted to show the basic first.

Karen, who saw the result, received a considerable shock. She was completely hardened with her wings spread.

Karen regained herself when I clapped my hands, but the expression that she displayed this time... the fear toward me disappeared for the first time.

"How's that? I wonder if there is no need to learn magic even with that." (Sirius)

"...I also can do it?" (Karen)

"Of course. Magic is possible if you think you can do it, and it is important to keep

practicing many times without giving up." (Sirius)

"...Yes!" (Karen)

I would like to teach her [Boost] or [Launcher] in regards of non-attribute, but it would be hard on the second day to the dragon's nest.

I didn't mind staying at the settlement of winged people for few days to teach Karen, but there was a possibility that we would be separated as soon as we sent her since they dislikes outsiders.

I considered about teaching [Magnum] because she was from a rare tribe, but as I expected, I was a bit hesitant to teach young girl the existence of guns.

More than anything... the magic that used the image of guns were uncommon and too powerful in this world.

Besides, if it was for self-defence, [Impact] alone was good enough. So, Karen should learn magic that surpassed her opponents first rather than to kill people.

Once her mind and body grew, and if we met again by the time she could judge what was right and wrong properly... I would consider it again.

While Karen flapping her wings as if asking to teach her soon, I was thinking about my future training plan.

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Extra/Bonus

※This extra is only about the everyday life of Sirius and the group in a heartwarming manner, so there is no high or turning points in particular. Please acknowledge beforehand. (Author)

Though things happening one after another and with the impetus of learning magic, Karen began to open her heart to me and Reus.

Several hours after showing magic to Karen... we stopped the carriage for a break.

I gave a training to forge Karen's magic first, but since it would be troublesome if she collapsed because mana exhaustion especially if she pushed herself too much, I told her not to train during the break.

Then, Reus, who took a nap when we were on move, went slightly away from the carriage to practice swinging. It was his daily routine, but... surprisingly, Karen personally approached Reus.

"Eh, you mean how many times I swung? It was six times just now, but..." (Reus)

"But... I could only see two swings." (Karen)

"No, I did six times. Well, shall I do one more time." (Reus)

"Yes." (Karen)

"Haah!" (Reus)

Karen looked at Reus with curiosity, and it seemed she was interested to see the [Shattering Strikes] of 'Single Strike Ultimate Destruction Style' that had multiple sword swings in a breath.

From ordinary people view, they couldn't see the technique well and how many swings the sword had been swung.

In that way, Reus wielded his sword again, but Karen tilted her head.

"...Was it two times?" (Karen)

"No, it's six times." (Reus)

"But... I can't see it." (Karen)

"Yeah, well, you'll get it if I cut that log." (Reus)

And when he threw the log that fell nearby and swung the sword, the log fell apart and dropped to the ground.

"Alright, with this, you can understand..." (Reus)

“...That log is somehow become small, right?” (Karen)

“It seems that the sliced parts become obscure.” (Reus)

“Well... Can I understand if I look at it?” (Karen)

“Ooh, that’s good thinking! Uhm... Here is... how about that?” (Reus)

“It’s perfect when it is this small. This is...?” (Karen)

“Karen is smart! Then, here is...” (Reus)

“Is this it?” (Karen)

Five minutes later...

“Alright, you have returned to the original state!” (Reus)

“Yes. It was difficult but interesting.” (Karen)

“Yes, it is. Eh...? Why did I slash the log?” (Reus)

“...Why is that?” (Karen)

“...They are the same bunch, you know.” (Sirius)

“Huhuhu... yeah, you’re right.” (Emilia)

They were going back and forth like in a skit of comedy, but I saw nothing but a good combination of these two people.

I was watching such a fascinating sight while having Emilia’s lap pillow.

“Well, how long do I have to do this? I already have enough nap-...” (Sirius)

“Just a bit more!” (Emilia)

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Small Joke Material – Act 1 – Killing

※This situation was when he showed non-attribute magic to Karen.

“For Karen to spread her wings and solidified, I guess that was a shocking sight, huh.”
(Reus)

“It’s just [Impact].” (Sirius)

“Say... Aniki. What do you mean by that?” (Reus)

“It’s nothing... just your imagination. Forget about it.” (Sirius)

“But, I’m concern about it. Tell me, Aniki!” (Reus)

“What is it?” (Karen)

“Stop it! Don’t look at me with such innocent eyes!” (Sirius)

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Small Joke Material – Act 2 – Respective Reaction

※At the adventurer guild, the words uttered by the receptionist when seeing Karen were...

“...Is that girl your child, Sirius-sama?” (Receptionist)

“!?” (Emilia) ← Ears and tail stood up with a poof sound

“!?” (Reese) ← Fiddling the hair with fingertips while fidgeting

“Yeah, I’m fine having girls.” ← Having big smile

“I am also in some way like a child who yearn for Aniki.” (Reus) ← Irrelevant

“Woof!” (Hokuto) ← Though irrelevant, he was wagging the tail for the time being.

“That girl is... well, she is like our sister.” (Sirius)

“...” ← Ears and tail were hanging down

“...” ← Still immersed in the delusion from a while ago

“But, boys are also nice to have.” ← Having big smile nonetheless

“I will not give up the position of a younger brother that yearns for Aniki, you know!”
(Reus) ← Sticking to his opinion

“...Woof.” Though irrelevant, he was scratching with a hind leg.

“...This is not a setting for you both, you know?” (Sirius)

“Eh?” (Reus)

“Woof?” (Hokuto)

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Small Joke Material - Act 3 - Staying out all night and coming home in the morning

※This was the time after Sirius had dealt with Aseed, and returned to the inn later than expected.

“I’m back.” (Sirius)

“Welcome back, Sirius-sama. Hmm...” (Emilia)

“...I think it was bad to stay out all night and came back in the morning, but why are suddenly sniffing?” (Sirius)

“As an attendant, it is necessary to figure out what kind of person you have met! The smell of other women... is not there...” (Emilia)

“I feel like I am a husband who is being questioned because of affair. Come on, if you have confirmed it, how about you stop sniffing me at anytime now?” (Sirius)

“No, I have to check up some more. Since I want to do that, please take off your coat next.” (Emilia)

“...Has your purpose changed?” (Sirius)



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